

green that had not been topdressed in 17 years. At the GCSA conference in Chicago we talked with this supt. again. He confirmed that there has been no topdressing now in 27 years. He says: "Why should I topdress? We have tools to do the job without topdressing — besides, why risk bringing in a lot of weed seeds, fungus spores, etc. Anyway, the members do not like the messiness — and I can keep them a lot happier without topdressing."

All Work, No Play

Enjoying himself at the conference in Chicago was a brawny supt. who seemed to be especially pleased to be there. He confided that this was the first time in three jobs and 27 years that he had been given a day off. Some chmn. have been asleep to let men become buried on the course without time for looking around a bit. We bet that this man will be taking some more days off again next year now that he has had a taste of hard-earned freedom. We'd like to believe that this is an isolated case.

Lack of Drainage

Recent visits to courses from coast to coast highlight one thing in particular — lack of drainage. We get more complaints from supts. on this score than any other, yet 30 years ago the necessity for good drainage was recognized and emphasized by supts., agronomists and professors. A new club is in such a hurry to get the course built and into play (so that revenue can start coming in) that they permit the builder to cut corners. The corner that seems to be cut most often affects drainage. If supts. were consulted there wouldn't be any question about installing perfect drainage. But — drain tile costs money. "Maybe we can get by this time and save all that dough." Little do they realize that, in the years to come, they will spend ten times what they "saved" and still not have what they want and need. Quite often the "saving" winds up in a complete rebuilding program at heavy expense.

What is the answer? Where do we go from here? Every architect is thoroughly familiar with the need for, and the benefits of, good drainage. What is the factor that permits new courses to be built on heavy soil with no drainage under the greens? It is puzzling. It is something like courses where the turf is poor because it is starving for nitrogen. When we recommend the feeding program that will feed the grass properly to produce good dense playing turf, the question arises, "What



This power driven bunker rake is used by Supt. Nelson Monical at Portage CC, Akron, O. Monical designed the rake. *Grau photo*

will it cost?" Many times the reaction is, "Oh, we can't afford that." We have heard the statement more than once, "If they can't afford to feed the turf properly, they really can't afford to have a course." Maybe drainage fits into the same category. They say they can't afford it, yet they will spend ten times the cost trying to grow grass under an insurmountable handicap, only to find that they have to rebuild and install a drainage system anyway, dozens of ruined greens later.

Too Much Peat

Q. Our club is making long range plans for improving the course. We intend to plant trees, locate new traps and improve greens. One of the problems is the first green. It has too much peat in it, and as a result, is wavy and hard to mow. Our plan is to remove the sod this fall and prepare a better base for the green. Would you let us know how we should go about this and what soil base preparation should be made before replacing the sod? (Ill.)

A. In answer to your question I ask a question. Is the sod good enough to strip, lay aside and then replace? If not, this would be an excellent chance to introduce an improved type of bent.

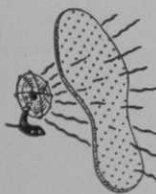
After the sod is stripped, it probably would be a good idea to strip off completely all the objectionable soil, pile it off the site of the green and then check the drainage system. If tile drainage is not adequate, be sure that the drainage system is completely adequate before replacing any soil.

If the soil that you have removed from the

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Grau's Answers

(Continued from page 66)

green is usable, add sand, coarse sand of course, and some clay loam soil, if it is indicated, to the mixture so that when thoroughly blended you have a sandy loam type of soil with about 8-10% of clay and 60-70% of coarse sand. This would be my guide for preparing the soil before replacing it over an adequate drainage system; 10-12 inches of this mixture, preferably 12, loose measure, should be replaced and thoroughly settled before replacing sod. Some supts. actually tread the green to be sure that the soil is firm and to avoid settling and creation of pockets after the sod has been replaced.

By all means, incorporate whatever limestone is indicated by the test, plus a generous amount of a complete fertilizer, preferably one containing slow-release nitrogen for the benefit of the sod when it is replaced.

Finding Qualified Men

Q. Our club recently purchased a 9-hole course and expects to operate it on a daily fee basis. None of us has had any technical experience in the operation or maintenance of a course and we need capable and conscientious men to perform the necessary work.

Is there any standard wage scale or man-hour and manpower averages which we may apply in order to obtain satisfactory results? We would be happy to receive or subscribe to any literature which might be helpful to us in this new venture. There seems to be a scarcity of qualified persons and the former owner, who did all the work practically single-handed, is not available. (New York)

A. I suggest, first, that you locate and retain a qualified supt. to operate the course and to keep it in tip-top condition so that it will attract players.

I know of no standard wage scale or averages that you could apply in order to obtain satisfactory results. It will be necessary for you to pay the supt. a salary and other benefits that will attract the kind of man that will give you the kind of course you want. As far as labor on the course is concerned, it will be necessary to meet the wage scale of local industry.

Poa Annua in Bentgrass

Q. What will kill Poa Annua without hurting bentgrass? (Texas)

A. There is nothing we can recommend that will kill poa annua and not hurt the bentgrass. Arsenate of lead is one of the better materials to use to discourage poa annua gradually. The rate of application is 10 lbs. to 1,000 sq. ft. applied early in the spring and repeated once or twice a year until results are achieved.

It would help if I knew first, what kind of grass you have on the greens; second, the kind of soil in the greens and also the drainage and, third, your fertilizer and watering practices. With a description of these factors a better diagnosis could be made.

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