

being planted in the southeast.

Requires Close Management

Chet Mendenhall comments that the first thing we have to learn is that Bermuda will not take over by itself as many had led us to think. Good Bermuda (U-3 in his case) fairways demand a good weed control program, heavy summer fertilizing and close clipping. Chet uses a 10-blade reel and cuts four or five times a week. Water is applied during long, dry spells and in early winter if soil is dry. He tries to put Bermuda to bed with moist soil.

Don Likes is a strong supporter of Meyer zoysia for fairways. He establishes it by plugging and has planned a four to five-year program. "More or less neglect of fertilizer and water" prevents excess thatching. Don likes says further: "As for winter color, it is the most beautiful stuff you ever laid your eyes on. It changes color with the seasons, doesn't stay the same monotonous green all the time."

Merion for fairways gets top billing in Utah and Ontario. Ky. blue, red fescue and Highland bent is the choice of Lindsay at Hagerstown.

Read what Bob Grant, at Runaway Brook CC, Bolton, Mass., says: "Merion Blue, in my opinion is the only turf for this area. Following the two basic rules of 1) heavy N feeding and 2) little or no water, it is outstanding. During the construction of our second nine, I could have seeded the fairways to Merion but chose not to. I have regreted it ever since."

Avoid Interference

The problem of interference with play continues as more players crowd courses from dawn to dark. Jim Thomas feels that more equipment is part of the answer, enabling the crew to accomplish necessary work in shorter time. Starting the crew earlier in the morning will help too. In some cases it may be justifiable to hold up play until the greens are mowed and watered, ball holes repaired, cups changed and sand traps raked. Three hours may be considered average for these chores, the time lessening with more equipment and labor.

Some supts. are mowing late in the day to be out of the way for early morning golf. Heavy dew makes morning mowing messy. With labor cooperating, Carl Anderson feels that late afternoon work will be popular since more work can be accomplished and the jobs will be done

better and cleaner. Greens are the exception — they must be cut early each morning to clean them up for the day's play.

Drainage A Sore Point

Nearly every letter from a supt. contains the same refrain: "Why can't the architects and builders give us better drainage? Why must we be forced to fight to hold grass on poorly-drained soil when good drainage is so inexpensive and so easy to accomplish?" The trend in construction must be in only one direction — more and better drainage to provide continuously good playing conditions in any weather. As Paul Weiss, Allentown, Pa. says, "Proper construction will save millions in maintenance costs."

Equipment Reduces Hand Labor

More and better equipment is reducing expensive hand labor to a minimum. Architects and builders are recognizing this trend and are contouring to avoid hand labor.

Paul Weiss wants a fast-operating vacuum type machine to remove leaves and grass clippings from fairways. Many share his wish.

Types of equipment that remove deep-seated thatch and aerate wet or dry soil in the same operation are becoming more popular. Thatch control always will be an extremely important aid to maintenance as the use of vigorous disease-resistant grasses increases. Expanded disease spray programs on tees and fairways can only work toward discouraging the natural thatch-destroying organisms. The result will be more thatch to be controlled mechanically.

James Smith of N. J. says we need to learn more about the way grasses grow. He is sure that most of us do not realize how serious and continuous the thatch problem is. In renewing crowded plant growth, he believes the sound approach is that of the trained horticulturist who tears out the old, infirm diseased "mother" plant, leaving the new fresh disease-resistant virgin growth.

(To be concluded in January)

Outgrows Clubs Every Four Years

George Aulbach, former PGA vp. says a golfer who is older than 50 probably outgrows his clubs each four years. The senior golfer may outgrow his swing each 5 or 6 years. His pro, says Aulbach, ought to give him a birthday gift of a check-up lesson.