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Jensen Tells How Dorado Beach Was Put in Top Condition

Players and observers alike at the recent Canada Cup matches, played at Dorado Beach, San Juan, Puerto Rico, were greatly impressed by the condition of the course which, many of them said, ranked favorably with any other layout they ever had played on or seen. In the following paragraphs, Ray Jensen of the Southern Turf Nurseries, Tifton, Ga., outlines what was done to bring the course into such fine condition for the international matches:

Greens: Early in May the greens were verticut, topdressed and fertilized. At this time height of cut was lowered to 7/32 of an inch. This same procedure was repeated on the 22nd and 23rd of May and the cut dropped to 3/16.

The greens were fertilized three times in May with solid fertilizer: twice with a 12-6-10 formula at the rate of 15 lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft. and once with ammonium sulfate at the rate of 7 lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft. In addition, they were sprayed with ammonium sulfate in conjunction with an insecticide application. The goal was to have

5 lbs. of nitrogen, 1.5 lbs. of phosphorus and 2.5 lbs. of potash in the grass during May.

We were slightly under these figures as we had to slow up due to the dry weather. The greens were watered nearly every

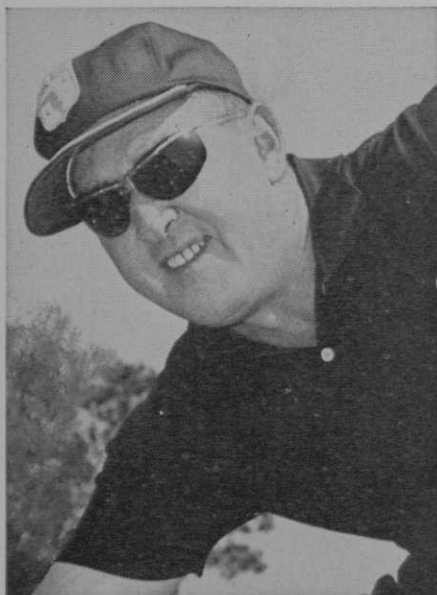


Every hole at Dorado has classical look.

morning or evening because of the drought.

Fairways: The fairways received heavy fertilization in March and April as they, like the greens, were in a state of low fertility. They received only one very light application of ammonium sulfate in mid-May. Another was planned for late May

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but not made due to the dry weather.

Tees: In need of fertilizer like the fairways, they received the same treatment as the fairways.

The pH of the water was pH 8.2. It was bringing our soil pH up to this level and caused us to have iron and other mineral element deficiencies. We had to spray frequently with iron chelates on greens, tees and fairways. By using ammonium sulfate we hoped to reduce the pH.

We had several worm attacks in April and May and also infestation by an insect known locally as the "Changa." This creature is similar to the mole cricket. We had only one light rain in 36 days. Without an efficient watering system the course would have dried up.

The grass is Gene Tift Bermuda on fairways, greens and tees. I think we would have nicer turf with a Tifton 328 — Ormond Bermuda combination or a Tifton 328 — Tifton 419 combination. The grass at Dorado was planted before the Tifton 328 had a chance to be introduced in the tropics.

All-Golf Clinic

(Continued from page 39)

competed in the Los Angeles Open. The tests were made using special platforms provided by the Toledo Scale Co. and installed on the driving range at Rancho Park.

This, and other special sessions relative to teaching methods and techniques, have helped establish the All-Golf clinic as something more than mere experiment.

Started by the National Golf Foundation and the California Assn. of Health, Physical Education and Recreation at Fresno in 1959, the clinic has had a boost in attendance of 200 per cent in just three years of operation.

Clover Control Program

John McCoy, supt. of Cincinnati (O.) CC, points out that there isn't much of a trick to controlling clover if a consistent fertilizing program is followed on both fairways and roughs. He uses a fertilizer that is high in nitrogen and potash and very low in phosphate. McCoy and Marion Mendenhall, also a Cincy dist. supt. run their topdressing material through a No. 6 screen. This produces a highly refined product that gives a prime finish to a green. McCoy long has been an advocate of monthly topdressing.