

On Your Tees

How To Use Celotex To Save Turf

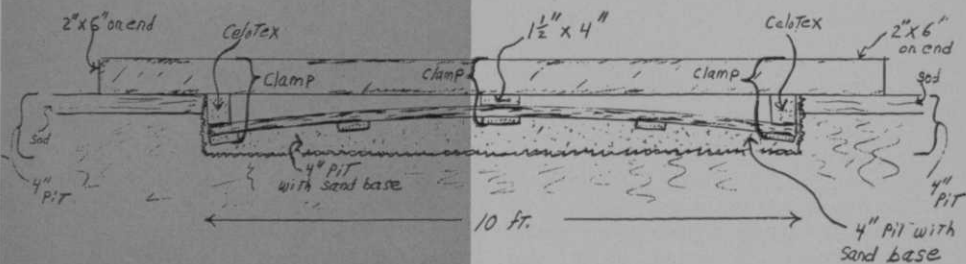
By **FRANKLIN HAMMOND**

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The combination of heavy play and disregard of rules for teeing up make it extremely difficult to maintain turf on the tee areas of many semi-private and public courses. At Unicorn, we have developed a mat of celotex for teeing up purposes and so far it has worked out very well. It has helped preserve our turf and after golfers have become accustomed to using it, they find that they like it as well or better than a grass tee.

Before describing how the celotex mats are constructed, let me say that we started out by using only one of them. But the turf behind it became so worn in a week's time that we decided this wasn't adequate. What was needed were at least four mats, aligned across the front of the tee, so that play could be easily rotated among them and the turf around them not seriously damaged. A close study of the middle photo shows how we have the mats aligned.

Another close study of the photo at the top of this page gives a good idea of how the framework for the celotex mat is constructed. It is 10 ft. long and 4 ft. wide with nine pieces of redwood, 1 x 4 ins. X 10 ft., nailed across five pieces of redwood, 1 x 4 ins. x 4 ft., in a kind of lattice-work pattern. The framework is



set on the ground and is outlined with a turf edger. Then it is removed and a pit, 4 ins. deep and 4 ft. by 10 ft., is dug out.

Celotex strips, 2 ins. wide and 4 ft. long, that have been glued one on top of the other to get a thickness of $2\frac{1}{8}$ ins. are placed across the two ends of the framework. Another 4 in. wide celotex strip, $1\frac{1}{2}$ ins. thick by 4 ft. long, is laid across the center of the framework.

Produce Crown Effect

Then two 2 x 6's, each 14 ft. long, are laid across the length of the framework, each in about one foot from the edges (see top photo). The diagram shows how the 2 x 6's are clamped on the framework above the celotex strips. By exerting equal pressure on all three clamps, a crown effect (also shown in the diagram) is produced. The reason that we want this convexity is that without it there would be a slight sag in the surface of the finished celotex mat in which water could collect. We want to prevent this, if possible. For best results it is recommended that the celotex be kept damp but not soaked.

The framework, with the 2 x 6 ft. rails, is then suspended in the pit, as you note in the diagram. The rails, of course, rest on the sod. The framework is secured by tamping sand under it in the same way railroad ties are tamped in place. It is important that the sand be well tamped for a firm base for the framework.

Square-Up Celotex Strips

The 2 x 6 ft. rails and the narrow celotex strips are then removed because the framework now is shaped with its crown center. Next, a piece of redwood, $\frac{3}{4}$ in. x 10 ft. long, is nailed across one edge of the framework. Celotex strips, 10 ft. long, are laid against the square-edge redwood strip, enough of them being installed to cover the entire framework. It is only necessary to hand tighten the celotex strips when they are laid on. If you force them you can damage them or cause them to hump a little.

After the celotex strips are laid, remove the $\frac{3}{4}$ in. redwood strip and lay sod against the celotex mat. When it is watered the celotex will swell and tighten against the sod. If you forget to remove the redwood strip, the celotex will swell against it and cause humping.

As mentioned before, three or four celotex mats, used on a weekly rotating basis, will give you long service and certainly preserve the turf on your tees.

Jim Gaquin Named PGA Tournament Manager

James F. Gaquin, Jr., has been named tournament manager of the PGA circuit. Announcement of his selection for the position, vacated about three months before by Edward F. Carter, was made in Sept.

A member of the tournament bureau's field staff since 1957, Jim formerly served as field secretary handling press relations, publicity and statistics. In his new position he will supervise the circuit field staff, represent the PGA in negotiating tournaments with co-sponsors and assist in the promotion of tournaments on the \$1,700,000 tour. Gaquin will work under the direct supervision of the PGA tournament committee, headed by Don January, and make his headquarters in Dunedin, Fla.

A native of Newton, Mass., Gaquin was graduated from high school in that city. He attended Boston University and was a member of the school's debating and golf teams and associate editor of the University News. Following graduation from college, Jim worked as an advertising copywriter and newspaper sportswriter until he joined the PGA staff. He is regarded as the best informed man in the country on the facts and backgrounds of the touring professionals.

Jim's wife, the former Lois Hayhurst, also is well known to many people in the golf field. She formerly did public relations work for two golf equipment manufacturing firms and in recent years has understudied her husband in handling publicity on the tour.

Smith Also Made Shop History

Horton Smith introduced head covers for woods and the wedge to American golf. He brought the covers from England in 1929 but they were slow in catching on. The next spring he got the wedge from a cotton broker in Houston and Al Link quickly put it into production with the old Hagen company. It was a phenomenally quick seller. George Sayers, then pro at Merion GC, sold hundreds of them in his shop the week Bob Jones won the US National Amateur, last of the Grand Slam events. Jerry Glynn, then pro at Barrington Hills CC (Chicago dist.) sold 103 of the early wedges within a few days after he ordered the clubs.