



Terra-Lite is spread out on ninth green at Wirth.



Here's the first pass with the roto-tiller.



Mixture is leveled with rakes turned upside down.

First Muny Short Course in Twin Cities Area

Weigh Traffic, Climatic Factors in Building Par 3

Among the golf courses built from scratch in 1961 was the new Par 3 in Theodore Wirth Par, Minneapolis, Minn. This is the first municipally-owned short course in the Twin Cities and introduces Par 3 play to many Minneapolis residents. It will also take some of the heavy burden off the regular 18-hole Wirth Park course.

Officials expect this new course to get about 30,000 rounds of play per year. Because of anticipated heavy traffic, careful analysis of site, climatic conditions, and expected usage went into the construction of the greens. This is how they were built.

1. The sites were excavated, and some were tiled where necessary to insure proper drainage.

2. A four-inch bed of pea rock was



Ted Newville (l) and Maynard Erickson were in charge of the Wirth Park construction job.

applied over the entire green and extended away from it at the low point.

3. One inch of good sand was leveled over the pea rock.

4. The soil mixture (two parts sandy-clay loam, two parts sand, and one part peat as prescribed by the soils department of the University of Minnesota) and 0-20-20 (phosphate and potash) were pre-mixed by graders on the fairways, and applied 12 inches deep on the greens.

5. 20-0-0 (nitrogen) was spread over the mixture.

6. To hold moisture in the top six inches of the green and to prevent com-

paction problems, No. 2 size vermiculite soil conditioner (Terra-Lite) was spread over the fertilizer, and raked and leveled. Seventy-five four-cu. ft. bags were used per green. Since these are 5,000 sq. ft. greens, this comes to 60 cu. ft. (15 bags) per 1,000 sq. ft. of green.

7. The nitrogen and vermiculite were rototilled to a depth of six inches.

8. The greens were raked, leveled, and packed.

9. Bentgrass seed (Penncross) was mixed with organic fertilizer and applied with a spreader.

Erosion Prevention

10. The newly seeded greens were rolled, covered with burlap to prevent erosion and to keep the seed from blowing, then watered with a mist spray.

11. The burlap was left in place until the seeds had well sprouted. It is important to watch this carefully so that the burlap is removed before the grass grows too long, or it might be damaged.

To minimize traffic on the newly seeded fairways, they were not dragged and seeded until the greens were finished.

Maynard Erickson is supt. of the new

Par 3 as well as the regular Wirth Park course. His father, the late Carl Erickson, built the original Wirth course 30 years ago, and was known nationally as a supt.

Big Junior Potential

Club officials and pros who look at population figures should be prompted to make sure that their Junior golf programs receive a whole lot more than the casual attention kid golf usually gets. There are 22,169,000 boys and girls between 11 and 17. There are 57,000,000 children under 15. That is 40 per cent more than there were in 1940.

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