

# Look Up Occasionally; See What's Going On

By **ROBERT V. MITCHELL**

Supt., Sunset CC, St. Louis, Mo.

Many supts. work so hard that they don't take time to attend monthly meetings of their groups or read the ads and promotion literature put out by suppliers. If they were to do both they would make their jobs a bit easier.

In the last three years I have started using a half-dozen products that are supposed to inhibit growth when desired, or promote it where wanted. All have given medium to good results, but most important have freed several maintenance department employees for jobs that are more important than such things as weed cutting. In addition, we have purchased a utility vehicle that is used almost exclusively in the fairway spraying operation. This has made the difference between finishing the work with comparative ease and never getting it finished on time. A new edger that is used for keeping the traps groomed produces about the same result. I probably wouldn't have bought either of these pieces of equipment or the supplies if I hadn't read literature describing what they can do.

As for monthly meetings of GCSA chapters, a fellow isn't smart to pass them up. He usually brings home an idea or two that he can use. Just this spring I found out that some supts. preserve their hoses by looping half-hitches around the ends and letting the loop drag rather than one end or the other. At another meeting I learned that a brush made of street brooms and attached to the front end of the Park Special we use for the operation, does a fine job of working in top-dressing.

I suggest, too, that supts. keep an eye on the turf research work that is going on in their sections and for that matter, in others. Many different types of Bermuda are under observation at our Missouri Valley GCSA plots. One of these may prove to be sturdier and more disease tolerant than U3, which doesn't hold up as well as we'd like. If that happens, our jobs will be just a little easier for it.

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## More for the Maintenance Idea Hopper

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*Keeping an eye on turf research work . . . Getting help from kids on cleanup jobs . . . Cutting down on employees' walking time . . . Improving drainage . . . All add up to better ways of getting things done out on the course*

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*Some other ideas that supts. have used in improving operations at their clubs were described in August GOLFDOM (page 23).*

## Youngsters Get Passes for Cleaning Up Course

By RAY J. SCHMIDT

Supt., Coeur d'Alene (Ida.) GC

I don't claim to be originator of the idea, but a spring cleaning program we have used at Coeur d'Alene for the past several years is one that small clubs can profitably copy.

Every spring we organize junior players in work parties and, supervised by members, have them clean up the course from the first tee to the 18th green. This is not a superficial housecleaning job, but a thorough one. The kids don't merely pick up debris but rake tees, fairways, roughs, greens and the clubhouse grounds.

For their work they are issued season passes. The passes don't restrict them to playing merely on weekdays but give them weekend and holiday privileges. The best thing about the idea is that it gives the Junior golfers an appreciation of what is involved in the course maintenance job. You won't find them carelessly tearing up the course when they play because each has a little sweat and hard work in it.

## More Mechanization to Neutralize Higher Costs

By GERALD F. DEARIE

Supt., Medinah (Ill.) CC

It is well established that two out of every three dollars that are spent for course maintenance are charged off to labor. This cost has been steadily increasing over the years and our only hope of heading it off is to use ingenuity wherever possible. Ingenuity consists of improving or mechanizing operations when the opportunities arise.

We have mechanized our maintenance routines to the extent that we always use tractors to rake traps. Electric hedge trimmers were purchased several years ago to replace manual units, and are run off truck or tractor batteries. Fertilizer is applied via machines. Not too many years



Signs installed at the bottom of a post or standard are less likely to get knocked over than those that are fastened at the top, according to Gene Stoddard, supt. at Irvine Coast CC, Newport Beach, Calif. This sign is attached to 1/2-inch angle iron that is imbedded in an old hub cap, filled with cement. It is easy to move for mowing purposes.

ago it took four men all day to fertilize 18 fairways; now two men complete the job in four or five hours. Incidentally, we have stepped up our soil tests to give us a better guide in buying fertilizers. Knowing which course areas are in need of heavy fertilization as contrasted with those that aren't, does away with much indiscriminate feeding and saves us money not only in material but the cost of applying it.

In recent years, we have made quite careful studies of course workers' traffic patterns in handling their jobs. The result has been the dispatching of more employees by utility vehicles from tee to tee and green to green. In addition, we arrange to have our crew members picked up by truck or utility vehicle before lunch and at quitting time so that they can stay on the job a few minutes longer and time isn't wasted by them in returning to the maintenance building.

Hundreds of labor hours can be saved in a year's time by cutting down on employees' walking time from job site to job site. Supts. don't always realize this because the time saved in individual situations may amount to only a few minutes. But the accumulation of five minutes here and ten minutes there amounts to a con-

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## More Maintenance Ideas

(Continued from page 52)

siderable saving over a long period.

Finally, carefully kept records may give a supt. many clues to ways in which he can save on materials and labor hours. I advocate frequent reviews of material and labor records so that a supt. knows exactly where he stands in comparison with his current budget and performance in previous years.

## Putts Fingers on the Golf Car Paths

BY ELMER BORDER

Supt., El Caballero CC., Tarzana, Calif.

We have just finished constructing car paths on the front nine and will start to work on the back side this fall. Our paths are somewhat different than those you will see at other clubs. Most are built



Pipes are installed in the No. 1 and No. 3 fingers and center one is left open to take the day's car traffic. On the following day, the No. 2 finger will be blocked and No. 1 or No. 3 is opened.

in horseshoe fashion and link a green and the following tee and fairway.

The paths are approximately six feet wide. Each starts from about 60 to 100 yards from a green and leads to the following tee, from where it is extended approximately 100 yards down the fairway.

At the point of both ingress and egress, the paths radiate into three fingers. In the middle of each finger, we sink a 2½-inch pipe socket to hold a pipe about two-

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feet long. Two of the three fingers are always blocked off with the two-foot pipe, which is painted yellow, so that golfers can enter or leave the path via only one finger. One of the pipe barriers is changed every day so that traffic is diverted from one path to another. In this way, the turf at the end of any of the three fingers is not subject to day-in, day-out wear.

## **Slit-Trench Drainage**

**BY WALTER R. BOYSEN**

Supt., Sequoyah CC, Oakland, Calif.

Clearing up troublesome wet areas on courses can be done inexpensively by the slit-trench drainage method.

I use a Davis "Pup" to cut a ditch of about three- or four-inch width, and 18 inch depth, from the spot where the water collects to an area where it can be dispersed or drained off. The bottom of the trench is filled with about four inches of pea gravel. Then, reject quality plastic pipe of small diameter (from 1 to 1½ ins.) is placed atop the gravel after ¼-inch holes, about six inches apart, are

drilled into it. After the pipe is installed, the remainder of the ditch is filled with more gravel.

This is not an original idea. I picked it up from another supt. while attending one of the local turf conferences. I use it extensively on my course as a substitute for the older and more expensive method of clay tile drainage.

### **Minnesota Show and Conference**

A turf equipment show and demonstration, jointly sponsored by the Minnesota GCSA and the University of Minnesota horticulture department, will be held Oct. 5-6 at the State Fair grounds in St. Paul. The 38th annual Minnesota GCSA turf conference will be held Nov. 17-18 in the Normandy Hotel, Minneapolis.

### **Florida Turf Conference**

The 13th annual University of Florida turf management conference will be held Oct. 5-7 at the Ramada Inn, Gainesville. Florida Turfgrass Association officers for 1965-66 will be elected during the conference. Grenville C. Horn and Wally Anderson are co-chairmen.