

Seeding greens the easy way



Men spray mulch and seed in water over green's surface. Job took 18 minutes on this green.

An increasingly popular method of applying seed and mulch to greens is by hydro-seeding. To overcome the problem of tracking, on the finished seedbed by men and equipment, hydro-seeding looks like the answer. Other advantages include erosion control from wind and water, better distribution of seed, reduced time for application and the esthetic value from the viewpoint of members and visitors.

At Greensboro Country Club, Greensboro, N. C., superintendent Dale Blaser gives some very interesting information about his greens there, which after a remodeling project, were hydro-seeded in

late spring. The time, because of rains, was delayed to the point that hot weather was near at hand.

After the greens had been finished out and ready for seeding, a commercial seeding service was employed for the final job of seeding. The first green, No.15, approximately 10,000 square feet, required only 18 minutes for seeding and mulching, with three men operating the hydro-seeder. Mixing the seed with a wood cellulose took some 20 minutes before spreading. Total time per green over the course averaged not over one hour.

The hydro-seeder, a 1,500 gallon unit,

The hydro-seeding method used at this club proved fast and efficient, and overcame the problems of tracking and erosion, too.

By **JIM MONROE**



Green mulch (wood cellulose and Penncross bent seed) is shown over green after hydro-seeding

had a paddle-type agitator, plus a liquid agitator. The pump, with a four-inch intake and two-inch discharge at 200 gallons per minute, with 110 pounds pressure was powered by a 57 h.p. water-cooler engine.

Mixture for the Greensboro CC seeding included 32 pounds of wood cellulose per 1,000 square feet with two pounds of Penncross bent seed. Following the seeding, Blaser kept greens constantly moist for the first ten days by sprinkling around three times per day at five to 10 minutes. Germination started in three days thereafter.

After 12 days, mowing began and, in 18 days, all greens had been cut at $3/4$ inch. Height of cut was quickly lowered to $3/8$ inch and will be further lowered to $3/16$ inch in October. Frequent fungicide applications apparently has held the spread of spots and as of August 3rd, the new grass coverage appeared to be easily 95 per cent with $3/4$ lb. nitrogen (organic) per 1,000 sq. ft. used up to date.

Dale Blaser, on August 3rd, gave the following evaluation of the Greensboro hydro-seeding job, "The surface of greens was not scarred by tracks and washes. It

continued on next page

Seeding Greens

continued from preceding page



Green's sprinklers are started after mulch and seed are spread by the hydro-seeder.



Close-up of mixture of seed and mulch as applied through hydro-seeder to the green.

is a quick and easy method of seeding, and the sterile cellulose used did not contain weed seeds like some other mulches.

"There was no damage from wind. I would have preferred an early spring or fall seeding, and believe one pound of Penncross bent seed per 1,000 square feet

would have been adequate. However, the members were enthusiastic over the green color from the moment of planting."

We may add that after visiting four other courses on which greens were recently hydro-seeded-mulched, the course superintendents favor the method. •