

Department of Agriculture soil conservation service unit comes to the rescue of Sidney, Ohio golf course

'The dam is leaking!'



Erosion of newly seeded golf course can be seen around sand trap, and in filling of road ditch.

Superintendents, if hesitant about asking fellow supers for advice, can go to the local soil conservation service unit of the United States Department of Agriculture. The following is a brief case history of the help the department gave to Sidney, Ohio with its course.

A committee of 20 men, named by the city, obtained an option to buy 145 acres of farm and woodland. Stock in the course was sold to local people to raise the money.

Two summers ago, bulldozers changed the former cropland and woods to fairways and greens.

Here the first mistake was made. Inadequate attention was paid to the type of soils being used to develop the fairways and greens.

As the bulldozers reshaped the land, old field drainage tiles were covered or broken, creating a future drainage hazard.

Workers built a 2½-acre pond for irrigation, overlooking storm storage, size of watershed, and soils.

That fall, workers seeded about 100 acres to grass. They used no mulch or cover crop to protect the soil against erosion. They did not sod the main drainage channels.

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should not miss the new stretch fabrics which are being introduced increasingly into golf fashion).

c. Detailing—large pockets, tabs in skirts to hold tees, etc. Good detailing means added selling points.

d. Easy care of the garment—check washing instructions carefully as well as just how wrinkle-resistant the fabric is.

10. Don't overlook the value of asking some of your members what they would like to see in their pro shop. In their answers might lie the biggest clues to a successful pro shop year. □

Dam is leaking!

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In February a four-inch rain tore at the face of the unprotected course. Erosion scarred the site.

The following spring, workers had to reshape and reseed 60 acres. Something also had to be done with the pond. Water had

gone over the dam and washed it away!

Committee members asked the Shelby Soil and Water Conservation District for help. The district supervisors called in the USDA Soil Conservation Service.

David Nesser, soil conservation service technician assigned to the district, recommended: "Fertilize and mulch the seeded areas with straw to prevent erosion. Properly design the water channels. Repair the broken tile to drain wet spots. A seven-foot diameter pipe, with anti-seep collar, is needed for the pond and an emergency spillway to handle heavy rains."

No word was heard from the golf course committee until late last winter. Then, James S. Bennett, who had replaced Nesser, received a call. "The dam is leaking! Can you help us?"

He found a small hole along the side of the pipe. "Drain the pond to relieve the water pressure on the leak," he advised. Later, he

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Dam is leaking!

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learned that the anti-seep collar, which prevents water from seeping along the outside of the pipe, had been cut off because it couldn't be forced into the hard rock under the pipe.

Further questioning revealed that no hand tamping had been done around the pipe; one coupling band was damaged when the pipe was installed, and was now leaking. Cliff Van Vliet, SCS engineer, then designed a six-inch by seven-foot by seven-foot concrete ring to seal off the leaking band. He pointed out that increasing the height of the dam by two feet to handle storm storage would relieve any further problems. Construction work was done under SCS supervision to insure proper tamping around the concrete ring in early spring.

Last summer the pond held. The dam will be raised two feet this fall.

Fertilizing and mulching, plus a good sprinkling schedule, have made the fairways the best ever.

A minor drainage problem on the greens and a surface ditch need some attention, but the course is taking hold. Return on the investment is showing up, as the course moved out of the red into the black for the first time in three years. And, naturally, the course now cooperates with the Shelby Soil and Water Conservation District.

These mistakes could have been avoided by proper use of an SCS soils map, and design information for pond and water removal systems, and mulching. □

Landscaping advice

If plants are bare-root (unprotected or unwrapped) when you receive them, keep them in the shade and protect the roots from dehydration. When planting, the hole should be large enough to contain all the roots. If the soil is a heavy clay, it will be necessary to provide drainage, simply by boring a hole through the clay to the sandy subsoil and filling with gravel or sand.

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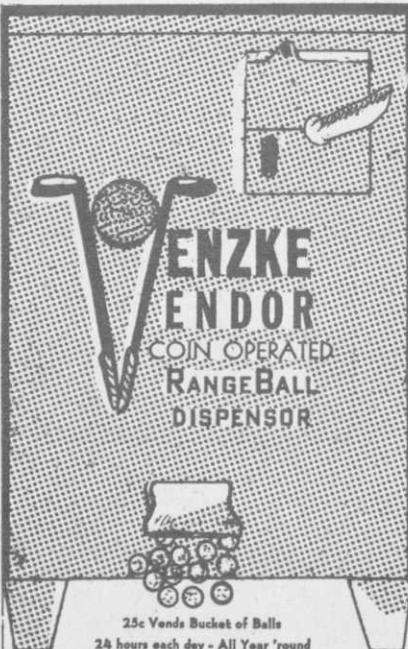
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