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GOLF SHAFT DIVISION

golf is the native flint; BUT IT TAKES THE STEEL OF COMPETITION TO SPARK THE GOLF GAME. Therefore tournaments and competition are of utmost importance to golf.

There has been a laxity about some district and local tournaments in late years. Prizes are out of balance, emphasis is on winter rules, calcuttas, member wagers and such things. Many of such events are not equal in standard to the great game of golf. It is therefore our professional duty to exercise our power of persuasion and our superior knowledge of tournament affairs to build stronger events in our localities. It is our basic duty to know the rules thoroughly and make our decisions from the rule book quickly and decisively. The Amateurs expect this from us. And along the lines of rules, beware the self-appointed rules expert who can distort the rules of golf and use them for his own gain. Many cases come to light of false rules interpretations causing grief to ill informed players.

No Place for Shady Characters

We know professional golf. We are aware of its difficulties and hard spots and we know how kind it can be. We know how exacting its entrance requirements must be. We know it is not an easy spot for play-boy golfers who want to be connected with fine clubs so that they can play golf each day and never have a hard lick to hit.

So we have the great responsibility of interpreting the difference between true professional golf and the pseudo pros and the fringe amateurs who are trying to "hustle" a cash gain from the game. The stain of sordid commercialism is on too many in amateur golf today. There are fine yet misguided players who are flirting with trouble. These fellows want no part of true pro golf. They dream of soft jobs secured because they have a fine golf swing and easy small talk. They scheme for big prizes at amateur tournaments and hope that some way they can make material gain from such play. How quick can we pros tell them that they cannot make such ventures pay? How well we know that they are treading on dangerous grounds. Others of these misguided ones hope for golf angels who will pay the tariff and give the free swinger a free ride through leisurely days of golf playing. Why not tell the truth to such players as these; give them the bitter truth? The sooner they find out about this mirage the better they will be and the cleaner amateur golf will be.

We must protect the portals of professional golf. We must seek better types of young men to break into the profession of golf. Our eyes should always be on the alert to find the cleanest and smartest

type of young man in our caddie ranks and or on our scholastic golf teams. We should build stronger professionals.

Yes, and we should make it unmistakably clear that there is no twilight road into pro golf. Make the leap in the bright sunshine of public knowledge and proper leadership or shun every sign of shady half measures that might bring dishonor to golf and the individual alike.

So, let's look to 1953. A year of normal sales, without doubt. Let us take this chance to build a stronger game of golf. Let us grasp this opportunity to serve better in our job as professional, as the community leader of this great game, as the guardian of professional golf and amateurism alike and may our 1953 slogan be the same as that great one from Rotary International, "he profits most, who serves best."

National Golf Fund, Inc. Is Organized; Riggins, Pres.

A non-profit corporation has been formed to administer the proceeds of National Golf Day, sponsored by the PGA and Life Magazine. The corporation has been named National Golf Fund, Inc. and the first complete report on the success of National Golf Day was made at its first meeting held recently in Chicago.

The corporation, with Fred L. Riggins, Sr. of Port Huron, Mich., will administer a fund of \$80,024 realized from the first National Golf Day, May 31. Some 14,000 players succeeded in bettering Ben Hogan's score, their handicaps considered.

The fund will turn over 50% of these proceeds to the United Services Organization in accordance with the original object of the Day, at a formal presentation ceremony in New York, October 21. The remaining proceeds of National Golf Day will later be distributed among worthy golf charities and projects.

Members of the new corporation include seven ex-officio members. These include the three officers of the PGA: Pres. Horton Smith, Sec. Harry Moffitt and Treas. Harold Sargent; the Chairman of the PGA National Advisory Committee, Bing Crosby; Pres. of the Western Golf Assn., Gordon Kummer; the editor of Golfing and Golfdom magazines, Herb Graffis; and the editor of Golf World, Bob Harlow. Six additional members who are prominent in golf will later be elected by the present membership.

Directors of the new organization include Riggins; J. E. King, Vice-President of Time, Inc.; Milton Woodard, Executive Secretary of the Western Golf Assn.; Graffis and Thomas W. Crane, PGA Executive Secretary, who has been elected Secretary-Treasurer. The annual meeting of the Corporation will be held in Chicago, November 10.



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CINCINNATI 32, OHIO

Turf Roundup of 1952

By **FRED V. GRAU**
Director, USGA Green Section

"Well, I am glad that's over," said many golf course superintendents concerning the 1952 season. "One of the worst in history," said some. "The worst since 1949," said others. Anyway you look at it, a lot of people lost a lot of turf in 1952. Some of it was good turf lost through errors in management. Much of it was weak, unadapted turf that no one could have saved under the extremes of conditions that occurred in 1952. Some superintendents were criticized unfairly. Some had to have their mistakes pointed out to them. Everyone learned something from his own and the troubles of others. As we had said before, "Every failure has in it the element of success." If we study the failures of various kinds of turf under many kinds of conditions, and particularly under many different types of management, we should come up with a better formula for success than we have had before, even if part of it is only in terms of what NOT to do.

Golfer Appreciation

An event occurred during the playing of the 1952 USGA Open Championship at the Northwood Club, Dallas, Texas, that many players long will remember. At best, player reaction has been a difficult hazard to negotiate. Most of us are to blame for not explaining to the golfer more clearly and more often what it is that helps to make the good turf on which he plays. Let's look at the Northwood instance and see what happened.

Everyone who followed the matches during the Open Championship at Dallas either by radio, television, or on the grounds, will remember very clearly how hot it was. Many players faded in the stretch simply because they could not stand the heat. The Committee, and Herman Borchardt, the greenkeeping superintendent, gave the players good bent greens on which to putt. Bent grass is not a natural grass in Texas, especially for putting greens, but most golf courses are switching to bent because it provides a better putting turf than does the bermuda grass which they used to have. Even so, during hot, dry periods the bent grass, which is relatively shallow-rooted, can't draw enough moisture out of the soil to compensate for that lost through evaporation and transpiration in the dry climate. That is exactly what happened during the Open. Herman had to rinse off the greens in between matches during play! This was an unheard of and unprecedented instance.

Many of the players began to complain bitterly that it would put them at a dis-

advantage and give their opponent an unfair advantage. However, it was explained, (and we shall attempt to explain again here) that the action of putting water on the greens during play in between matches was absolutely necessary in order to keep the grass alive. Had this not been done the grass would have wilted beyond power to recover and the grass would have died. Then, after the Open Championship, the members would have had bare greens instead of grass. Had the watering, which is only a light rinsing or syringing, been delayed even for 20 to 30 minutes the grass would have died. That is how quickly things happen in that climate where we are working with grasses that are not fully adapted.

Water When Needed

Now I am going to relate an instance where water was not applied at the moment it was needed and as a result a championship course lost a good part of its putting greens. I refer to the Big Spring Golf Club at Louisville, Ky. I mention names because the present management gave me permission to cite the instance as a horrible example. The weather during the play of the PGA Championship was anything but favorable to bent grass putting greens. Terrific heat and a drying wind started to wilt the grass. The superintendent wanted to syringe or rinse the greens to stop the wilting and to hold them through the heat of the day so that they could recover at night. However, a definite written order had been issued by the chairman of the green committee that no water was to be applied to the putting greens under any circumstances during the daylight hours when the sun was shining.

The result is well known. The grass wilted beyond its power to recover, and even though copious quantities of water were applied in the evening with the sprinkler after the sun was down the grass could not recover and huge areas were completely dead and bare. This has necessitated a very costly renovation program of reseeding, and the members have been put to a great disadvantage. To water grass when it is needed is probably one of the most important matters in the management of turf.

We hope that players everywhere, when they see the superintendent or the workmen syringing off the greens during the heat of the day, will realize that this is being done because the grass has started to wilt and it needs to be "cooled off" and

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given a little water to replace that which is being lost through the leaves so that there will be grass to play on the following day.

Greenkeeping a 24-Hour Job

There are 168 hours in a week; there are 7 days of 24 hours each. The successful superintendent knows what is going on all the time. That is too much to expect of anyone man but that is exactly what many superintendents had to do this past summer. In more than one case where vigilance was relaxed for just a few hours, especially on a Saturday afternoon or a Sunday, the superintendent and the members have suffered.

Almost all golfers take for granted their lovely golf course and the high level of perfection in the turf which they use. If only the golfers could realize the infinite care and the long patient hours which the golf course superintendent devotes to the course for the enjoyment of the members! In far too few cases is that devotion to duty compensated. Many superintendents are leaving their positions and seeking others which offer better possibilities for the future, with less of a strain twenty-four hours a day. The successful business men that make up the management committee of golf clubs know best how to indicate to the superintendent the fact that his services are appreciated and that he personally is held in high esteem by the membership.

Another way of saying thanks to the superintendent is for the club to make sure that his dues in the Golf Course Superintendents Association are paid regularly. An item in the budget for "Education" so that he can attend a couple of turf conferences during the year also will make him feel that his efforts have been worth while. His club benefits in the end as he will come away from these meetings with new ideas. Certainly, every golf course superintendent and every greenkeeper deserves to read the USGA Journal. Quite naturally the club will get a free copy of the Journal with each membership in the USGA.

The Weather

There is little need to dwell further upon the terrific extremes of weather over the United States in 1952. This subject has been discussed quite thoroughly in *Golfdom* by our friend, O. J. Noer. Suffice it to say here that the havoc was due to the unprecedented extremes of temperature, rainfall, drought, insects, diseases and perhaps other factors, including mis-management and unwarranted interference by unauthorized persons. As we have indicated, in some cases loss of turf could not have been prevented. On the other hand, in many cases it was preventable.

More than anything else, the lesson has been pointed up for us and for everyone to read and heed, that the warm-season

grasses, by and large, gave such good account of themselves in 1952 that many more people are beginning to look to them as a partial solution to their summer turf problems in the future.

The principal lesson which the warm-season grasses shows is that we had the turf when it was needed for the majority of the players who like to play during the growing season. One of the outstanding situations is to be found in St. Louis. At the Westwood Country Club for many years the quality of the bent fairways was something that every one admired. The fame of those fairways went far and wide.

During 1952, however, prior to the Western Open Championship, an order was given to lower the mowers during the heat of the summer. The fairway mowers were lowered and as a result the bent grass fairways were scalped, they turned brown, and at the end of the season they were nothing but crabgrass and clover.

Areas of the warm-season grasses (bermuda and zoysia) came through the summer with flying colors and, quite naturally, the management at Westwood today is much more favorably inclined to prosecute a planting program involving bermuda and zoysia rather than try to rely again on bent grass and bluegrass, which failed to give complete satisfaction under all conditions. This situation is much the same at other courses. During the September 29 meeting at the Westwood Country Club the principal topic of conversation was what to plant to produce turf when the golfers wanted it.

An example of what the summer was like might be found in the records of the number of days above 90° which, in Chicago, was 38 days, whereas the normal is less than 10. In Cleveland they had 37 days over 90°, whereas the normal is 5. Undoubtedly the record in many other cities would equal or exceed these.

More Superior Grasses Needed

The general destruction, and, we might say failure of the bluegrasses, bents, and fescues throughout a wide area, indicates that so far as tees and fairways are concerned the problem no longer is as simple as just applying more fertilizer or using adequate quantities of water. When diseases and high temperatures destroy these grasses there is not much left to water or fertilize. It brings us to the subject which we have discussed considerably in the past, and that is that fertilizer is most effective when it is applied on a grass that is able to utilize the fertilizer.

During 1952 we have recommended consistently that the procurement of a supply of fertilizer designed for the fairways be delayed until the fairways could be planted to a grass that could utilize the material. We feel that this procedure is sound ad-

vice and that it will increase in popularity. It is up to the various people who are making local recommendations to determine which grasses shall be planted. It is imperative that everyone who is in a position to make recommendations on courses analyse the situation in view of everything that has happened and make recommendations for the planting of the grasses which have the best possibility of producing the kind of turf that will not let us down, as it did in 1952.

Where warm-season grasses have been planted, especially in the "twilight zone" or the so-called crabgrass belt, there have been far fewer disappointments than where the cool-season grasses consistently have been planted. If we were to consider the number of failures that have occurred in the planting of zoysia, for example, or bermuda for another example, we would find that there was a certain number of failures, but if we were to attempt to determine and to record the number of failures which have occurred from the planting of common bluegrass, ordinary red fescue, redtop, and bent, the job would be an endless one.

Sometimes the management of golf courses loses sight of the fact that for many years they have been pounding seeds

of various kinds into their tees and fairways, only to end up with nothing but crabgrass, clover, knotweed, chickweed and goosegrass. It is a serious responsibility for those of us in research, teaching and extension to make the proper recommendations. It cannot be done in all cases simply because we do not have command of all of the factors which enter into the production of good turf.

Now, more than ever before, golf courses need assistance from those in charge of research and extension to plan their future programs. It is more than ever necessary to plan a long-term program so that every step which is taken will contribute to the prosecution of the planned program rather than to institute temporary palliatives which have little or no place. It is true, as our friend Marshall Farnham has said many times that, "On the golf course it is important to cover up the ground." We recognize that fact and we appreciate that his statement is absolutely true. It is necessary to cover up the ground and to give the golfer a good appearance even if the turf is not all that is expected.

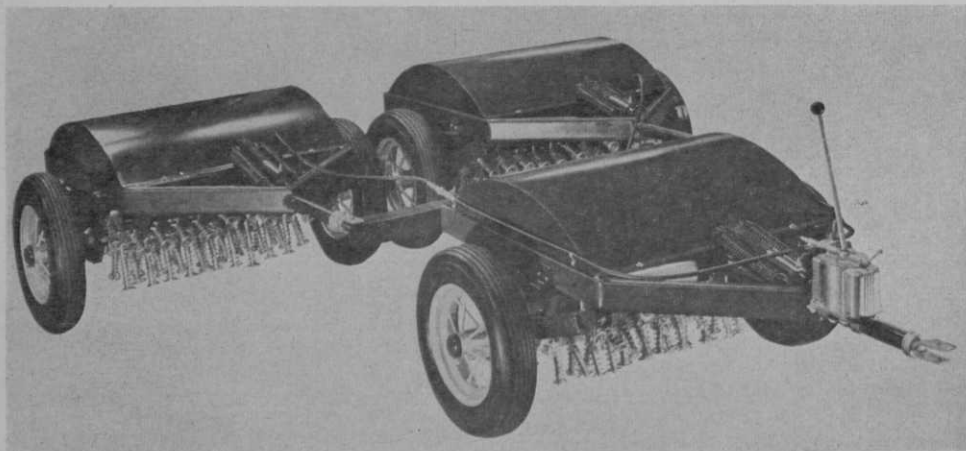
It is unfortunate that in so many cases the research and extension folks are called upon only after it is too late to do any-

GLASS ROOF ADDS TO BEAUTY OF CLUB DINING AREA



This is the dining terrace at Inverness GC, Toledo, Ohio, one of two of the club's favorite rooms to be remodeled recently. For the first time in the history of the club the dining terrace is being used under all weather conditions. A new opalescent blue Alsynite roof, large picture windows, natural redwood woodwork, and fresh green garden with fountain in center have converted the room into a beauty spot in which club officials take great pride. The Fibreglas-reinforced corrugated sheets used on the gable roof are translucent, very light, permanent and shatterproof. The sheets overlap and are made weatherproof by a special adhesive. Base of each sheet is nailed to a sponge rubber strip to keep out the elements.

There is an

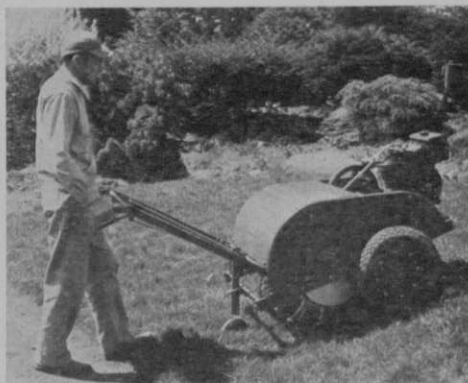


F-G MODEL Tractor-drawn F-G model Aerifier provides all round use. May be equipped with $\frac{1}{2}$ ", $\frac{3}{4}$ " or 1" diameter regular spoons or with special Thatch Spoons. Use a single unit F-G or couple 3 units together and use as a gang. Hydraulic control takes the labor out of lowering and raising spoons. Lowering and raising spoons on all 3 units of the gang is controlled by a single hydraulic pump. In the raised position there is ample clearance of spoons for safe transportation over paved areas. Cultivation depth is adjustable — use the same tool to aerify deeply or to scarify for a seedbed. The F-G and all Aerifier models feature "cultivating action" — the best in aerifying.

G-L AERIFIER

The G-L Aerifier is self-powered. This compact, easy to handle machine is convenient for use on limited areas such as greens and tees. $2\frac{1}{2}$ h.p. engine provides

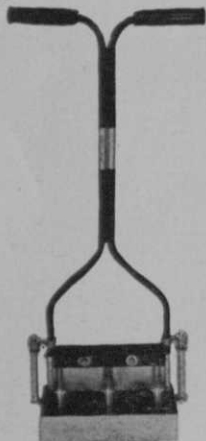
plenty of power for use on slopes. The G-L Aerifier cultivates a 20" swath. Reel is equipped with 60 spoons. Regular spoons or Thatch Spoons may be used on the G-L.



Cultivation depth is adjustable.

AERI-FORKE*

Use the Aeri-forke for spot treatments. Equipped with $\frac{1}{2}$ " diameter spoons. Provides "cultivating action". Pan catches soil cores — no cleaning up after treating localized trouble spots. Effective treatment — easy to use. Every greensman should have one.



AERIFIER* model

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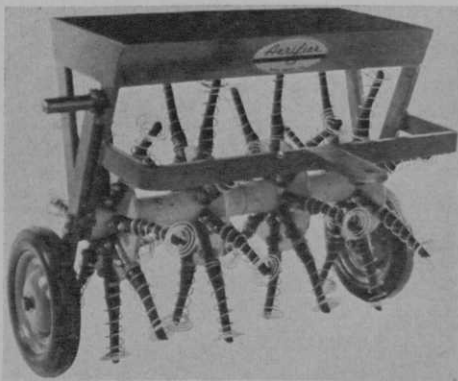


Junior G-L

The Junior G-L model is a self-powered Aerifier at budget-price. Equipped with a total of 32 spoons. Regular or Thatch Spoons may be used. Makes 4 holes per square foot. 2 h.p. engine provides adequate power. Handles adjustable to the height of the operator.

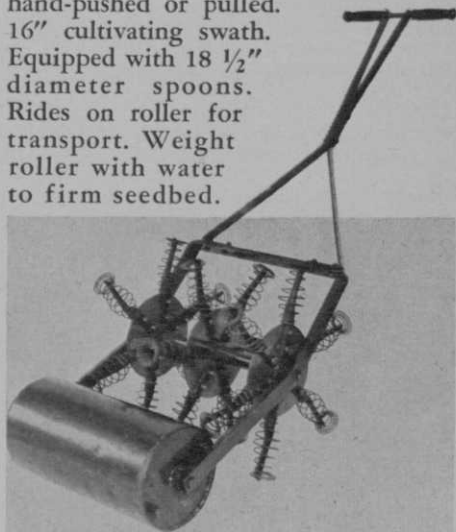
G-T AERIFIER

The G-T Aerifier is pulled by garden-tractor or Overgreen. Equipped with 32 spoons. Use regular or Thatch Spoons. Makes 4 holes per square foot. Tray for extra weight. Quick lifting and lowering of reel.



H-L AERIFIER

Combination Aerifier-Roller—the H-L model is hand-pushed or pulled. 16" cultivating swath. Equipped with 18 1/2" diameter spoons. Rides on roller for transport. Weight roller with water to firm seedbed.



West Point Products Corporation

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West Point, Pa.

Pat. No. 2,580,236

October, 1952

thing about the present situation. We find ourselves in the position now of lacking planting material and accurate information on some of the grasses which appear to have the greatest possibilities on golf courses.

Nurseries Inadequate

The number of courses which have adequate turf nurseries is pitifully small. Time and again when disaster has struck, people have had to pay high prices for sod, sprigs, or seed to re-establish their turf. Some of the more fortunate ones with vision and the benefit of long-range planning have had adequate sod nurseries so that by plugging, sprigging or sodding the injured areas were quickly repaired and the members scarcely realized that anything had happened. That is good management.

A few golf courses have produced seed of some of the scarce improved turf grasses from their sod nurseries on their golf courses. This has been one of my favorite subjects ever since I went into extension at Penn State in 1935. I recall that in 1936, I believe it was, one 9-hole golf course in Northeastern Pennsylvania combined over \$4,000 worth of fescue seed off the roughs. That went a long way towards meeting their maintenance budget for the following year.

We have learned that it is entirely practicable and feasible to allow certain of the improved turf grasses maintained as close-mowed sod to grow up and make seed. It is not necessary for the superintendent to thresh and process this seed as do the seed growers. It is necessary only that he mow this as hay, cure it properly, and store it in a dry place until it is needed. Then the hay, with the seed in it, can be scattered on the area, chopped up with the mower or disk or an aerator, and he has the benefit of both the seed and the mulch. This is destined to become an increasingly popular practice simply because mulch, in the first place, is highly recommended for new seedings, especially on slopes; and what better way is there to have the seed and the mulch combined in one operation?

This is not a fanciful thing but a practical thing, and actually the time during which the seed is being produced relieves the superintendent of mowing that area. With Merion bluegrass at \$5 and \$6 a pound and with zoysia seed at \$10 or more a pound, considerable advantage could be obtained by producing some of this seed-hay-mulch on the golf course.

Research in Turf

The need for research in Turf Management continues as strong as ever. Last year we cited some of the problems to be solved and noted particularly some of the "toughies" which deserved attention. These problems are receiving attention by the research staffs of the experiment stations

over the country and the USGA Green Section.

It is impossible to do an adequate job in research with insufficient funds and lack of trained personnel. One of the deterring factors in getting trained personnel is the unwillingness of management to pay salaries which will compensate a man for spending the time, effort, and money to receive the kind of training which he needs. It is a sad situation but one which cannot be denied.

The Green Section has suffered from lack of personnel to conduct the work which is so urgently needed among its member clubs. There is little need at the moment to go into a recounting of all of the research problems which need attention because they will receive consideration as the advisory committees of the various experiment stations and turf foundations emphasize their need to the people in research. The most important things will be studied, of course. Many of the other needed studies will have to be deferred until some future time when funds and personnel will be available to conduct the work.

It must be said for the record that the National Coordinated Turf Program is gaining strength year by year. Turf Management continues to occupy a place of greater importance among the agricultural experiment stations of the United States.

A great step forward was taken during August when the subject of Turf Management received such an excellent reception from the delegates of the Sixth International Grassland Congress at State College, Pa. Like the formation of the Turf Section in the American Society of Agronomy and the inception of the Turf Committee of the ASA, the Sixth International Grassland Congress and its recognition of Turf Management has brought to administrative officials all over the world the fact that Turf Management is an important and legitimate phase of agriculture which deserves attention because it is of direct importance to more tax payers than any other agricultural subject.

The turf research program at the University of California officially was accepted as part of the agricultural program in 1952 and from now on it will be supported from the budget. Congratulations to C. C. Simpson and Harold Dawson are very much in order for giving it such a good start on contributed funds. The Golf Course Superintendents in Southern California played a strong part in it, too. Now California is operating as a unit and we can look for big things on the West Coast.

The third Green Section Turf Research Fellowship at Penn State establishes a new high in a continuous program of developing simultaneously a sound body of facts, and in training leaders in Turf Manage-