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Members Won't Pay for Luxury of Experimentation

**A Superintendent Tells Why He and His Colleagues
Have to See New Products "Proved" Before They Buy Them**

By William Smart

Dutchess G & CC, Poughkeepsie, N. Y.

In his Turf Roundup article, "Accurate Testing," (Golfdom, January, p. 56), Fred Grau made this statement: "In many instances it was clearly evident that teachings based on research had not been put into practice and probably had not even been comprehended."

I'm the last who would be critical of Fred, but nevertheless I feel that a supt's views must at times differ from those of a person who isn't directly responsible to 300 members for the conditions of a course. So, I'd like to express some of my thoughts which, I believe, may be backed up by many supts:

- Research has given us a great deal — 2-4-D, chlordan, better fertilizers, etc. Many of the materials I use today were literally unknown a few years ago. But, as Fred points out, research has many variables. Thus, we supts. can't do anything else but go slow in accepting new products or methods. We can't afford to be experimenters, especially if research has been carried out under conditions that don't apply to our courses.

Test vs Combat Conditions

- Two years ago I had occasion to inspect a putting green plot into which had been put a lot of thought and hard work. Just about every known fertilizer, insecticide, fungicide, etc. had been tried out on it along with a dozen types of grasses. The results of the various tests were interesting and certainly not without value. But the area was and had been subject to little traffic and was mowed only two or three times a week at a very high cut. All the products and grasses performed well under these conditions, but if they had to undergo heavy, daily traffic, who can say for certain how well they would hold up. Even if I am accused of impeding progress, I can't buy them completely considering the conditions under which I have to maintain my putting surfaces. There are still those 300 members and my green chmn. to whom I have to account.

- Don't get me wrong! Whenever possible I use new products and methods. I haven't stuck my head in a sandtrap to the extent that I don't think these things aren't solutions to many of my problems. Every supt. owes it to himself and his club to keep abreast of new developments. If nothing else, he has to keep up with the times in self defense. His green chmn. and many of his members are interested in turf innovations. Some of them try them or, at least, read about them. When I'm confronted with some of their questions or comments about new products or a new type of grass, I had better have some intelligent answers ready or I am going to be downgraded in their estimation.

Try It Just Once

- From my experience, the research variables, that were mentioned before, aren't nearly as much of a menace as the salesman who would have you try his product "on just one green." He can take comfort in the fact that if it doesn't work, it isn't going to affect him. But with the supt. it's a different proposition.

About ten years ago I was persuaded by a salesman to try a high analysis inorganic on nine of my greens in midsummer. He assured me I wouldn't have any trouble if I worked the material into the turf with the back of a rake and then watered it in. The salesman was so convinced that I would get good results that he offered me the material for nothing as a final inducement to try it. I finally gave in. That was on Monday. By Wednesday, I had nine very sorrowful looking greens. Every footprint, every spreader wheel track came out brown. The greens weren't lost, fortunately, but I almost was — by the club. But how is anyone to know if things your regular greens as a proving ground; and never use an inorganic in a dry application during hot weather.

But I'll say this for the salesman, the product and the experiment: Where the inorganic was used under the same conditions at other clubs, it worked out fine.

(Continued on page 120)

*New
Cooper*

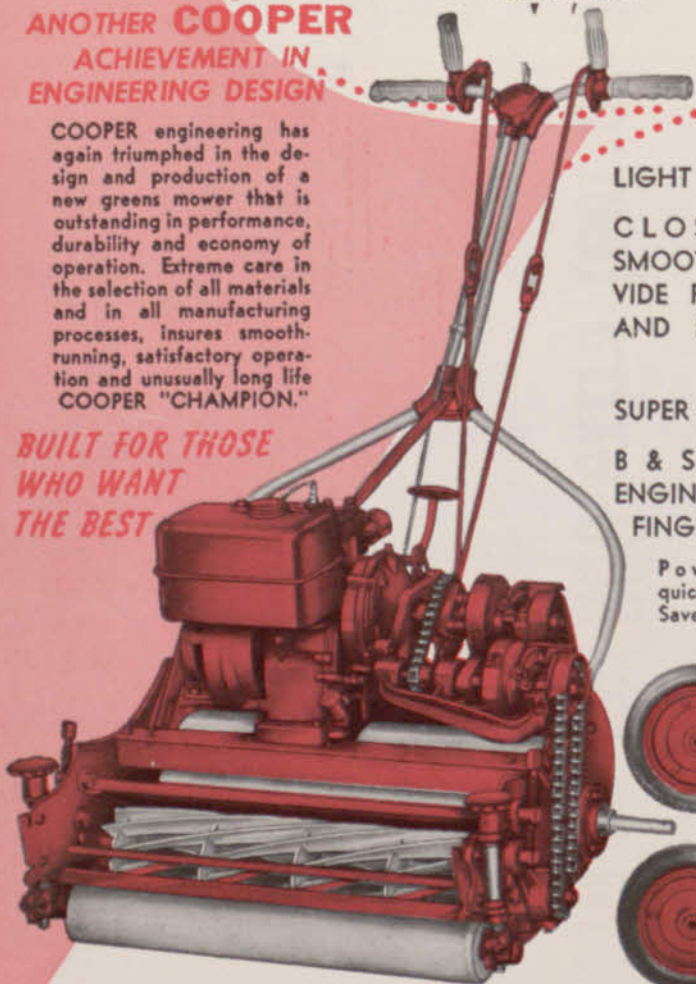
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How to lay 800 extra feet of pipe an hour





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Two men, inexperienced in pipe laying, recently installed a water line at the rate of 1000 feet per hour! It happened at a new Indiana golf course — and it's happening in golf courses, parks and along parkways throughout the country. It's possible because: UscoFlow Pipe, with UscoFlow elbows, tees and fittings (the most complete line on the market), betters the installation speed of metal pipe by an average of three to five times.

An UscoFlow installation is permanent and leakproof. For only UscoFlow has an "interference" fit, a feature that assures positive bond. Clamps are never necessary.

UscoFlow pipe is so light in weight, one man easily handles several 20' lengths. It's so flexible, it bends to the contour of the ground, eliminating many costly angle fittings. When a fitting is necessary — for a "T" or sharp angle — an ordinary wood saw cuts through UscoFlow in 30 seconds... simple, quick cementing assures watertight joints without threading. UscoFlow's smooth, frictionless inner surface carries greater water volume, too.

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Lyons' Unique Stolon Planting Method



Scattering stolons of Nimisila bent on prepared surface.



Steel mat is placed on stolons and firmed under foot to press them into soil.



Lyons' planting method avoids objectionable foot-printing on planted areas. One of the steel mats supports the man who scatters the stolons.

Bill Lyons of the Firestone CC in Akron, O., has devised an excellent method for planting bentgrass stolons. It should be equally good for fine strains of Bermuda.

The method is simple and fast and eliminates objectionable foot printing on planted or unplanted parts of the green.

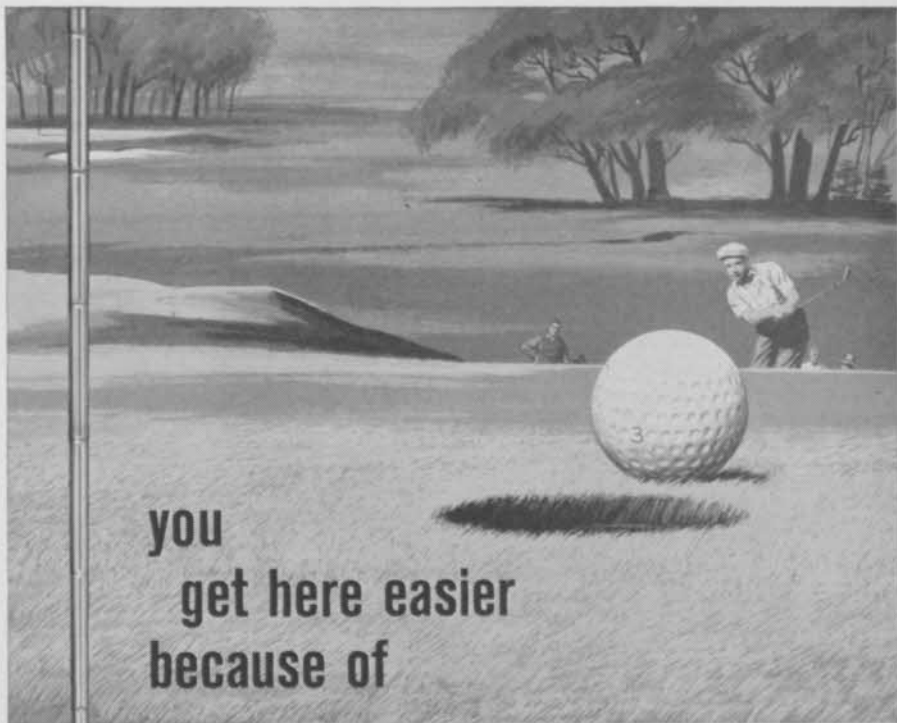
Planting is done from sections of flexible steel mats, rather than from boards or planks.

Tufted pieces of bent stolons are scattered along the edge of a small section of the green. The steel mat is placed over the planted stolons and pressed into place under foot. This places the stolons in good contact with the soil. Topdressing is scattered lightly over the mat to cover the planted grass. It is done by hand from large pails.

The final surface after planting is in excellent condition. Surfaces are kept moist by light sprinkling on the hour all day long on windy days for a week. The secret of quick cover is to keep the surfaces damp, but not wet, until new growth is off to a good start.



Closeup of planted area on a green.



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For more than thirty years professionals have been recommending clubs made with True Temper step-down steel shafts. They know that nobody has made a shaft to equal the step-down in customer satisfaction.

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Once drab Down Under shops are getting new look, thanks to American influence. Here are two views of shop at Australian GC, near Sidney.

U.S. Influence in New Australian Pro Shop

The new pro shop of W. Mackenzie at the Australian GC in suburban Sydney shows the influence of American pro shop on club officials, members, professionals and manufacturers in the golf-happy land Down Under.

There isn't the room or the stock that American pro shops carry at clubs that are comparable in prestige and size with Australian GC. But the stock is conveniently and tastefully displayed, the walls of the shop are bright, floor covering is attractive and there are large windows in the roomy shop.

On one door of the shop is a large mirror so the player can see his swing — and Mackenzie can give the member a quick "shop lesson."

The club captain sold the members on authorizing modernization of the shop. Members are pleased with the results. Dunlop Rubber Australia Ltd., golf sales staff worked with Mackenzie in laying out the shop and got valuable ideas, they say, from Golfdom.

Golfers Have to be Early Risers to Play in Long Beach

Writing in the Long Beach (Calif.) Independent Press Telegram, Jerry Wynn recently told of some of the early risers who come to Recreation Park to be either first or among the first to tee off on Saturday mornings. They start coming in



around one (a.m., that is) and hang around until 5:30 before it is light enough to hit the first shot. To give you an idea of how they stack up—a fellow who pulls in at 2:30 is usually seventh or eighth in line; at 4 he is down around 30th.

Gene Combs, chief starter at the city's three courses, constantly takes verbal abuse because he can't allot starting times for Saturdays and Sundays when people call up a week in advance. There is no rule against his doing it. It's just that reservations are backed up more than a week. Disgruntled golfers didn't realize what the city was up against until they read, for example, that in March 28,000 rounds were played on the 45 municipal holes even though the weather was poor.

The early risers remain in their parked cars until the starter at the different courses arrives at 5:15. The order in which the cars are parked determines who is up first and so on. So far there has been very little trouble with persons who try to crash the line.

One Recreation Park regular has a bed built in the back of his car to enable him to withstand the ordeal of waiting. Another has been coming out to the course in the wee hours every Saturday for about four years. There is a true sense of honor among the players, too. When the line begins forming for starting tags everyone checks the car next to his to wake up any sleepers.

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Tony Biddle, Superintendent

"I kept my greens free of disease with 'Tersan' OM through one of our worst seasons. I found it safe to use and compatible with insecticides and soluble fertilizer. By spraying 'Tersan' OM once a week throughout the season, I was able to control all diseases."

TONY BIDDLE, Superintendent
St. David's Golf Course, Wayne, Pa.



H. J. Elmer, Superintendent

"I recommend 'Tersan' OM to anyone who wants a safe, sure, all-purpose turf fungicide. I have used 'Tersan' 75 and 'Semesan' Turf Fungicide for over ten years with excellent results. This year 'Tersan' OM was tried on three greens with perfect disease control and no discoloration."

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