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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 Pennncross 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 Pennncross 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 $\frac{3}{4}$ inch. Height of cut was quickly lowered to $\frac{3}{8}$ inch and will be further lowered to $\frac{3}{16}$ 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 $\frac{3}{4}$ 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

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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 Pennncross 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. •



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Tamers of the desert sand

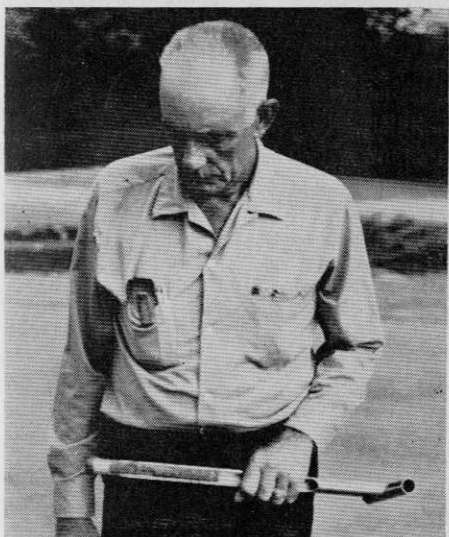
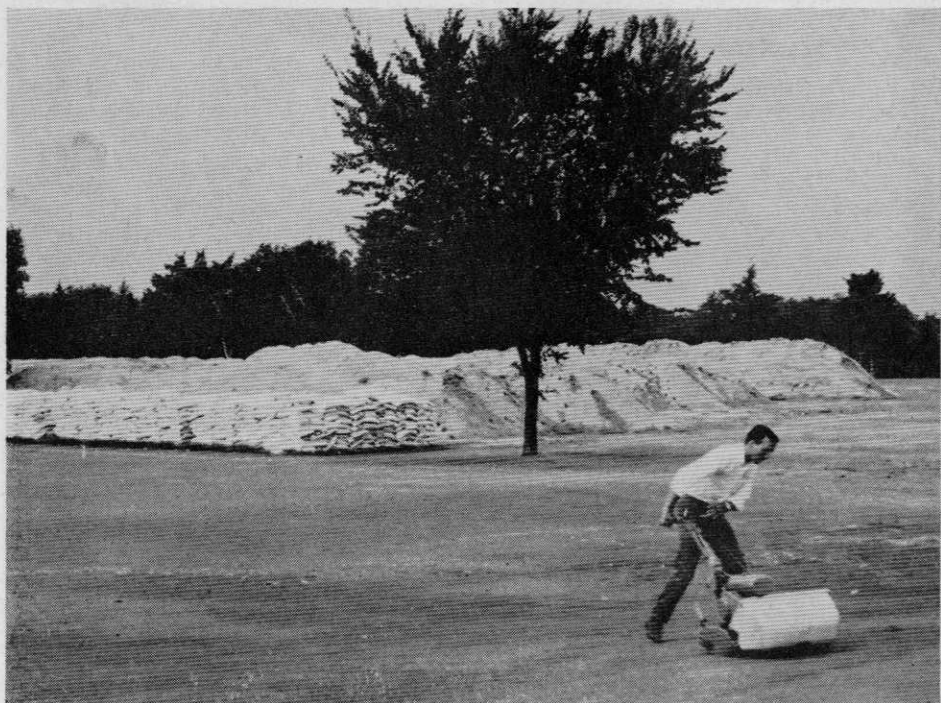
By VERNE FLOYD

Superintendents in the Southwest need all their skills—and a lot of water—to make grass prosper where once the Saguaro cactus ruled.



On recent visits to some of the fine courses of the Southwest it is interesting to see grasses thriving and providing excellent turf in an area completely dependent on irrigation. Golf superintendents in this arid region battle the intense summer heat maintaining their courses as meticulously as they do during optimum temperatures of winter.

The Dunes Hotel and Country Club, in Las Vegas, operates a golf course using only perennial ryegrass on the fairways year-round. Photo at left was taken from the roof of the hotel, 26 stories up, out over the swimming pool and parking lot to the golf clubhouse and course. A. B. Chadburn, superintendent, has so far, since 1959, been successful in keeping Bermuda from becoming established on the fairways. Fairways are cut at around one inch average height for the year. The Caliche soil, according to Chadburn, is more like concrete than soil and presents a difficult problem in planting grass, shrubs, or trees. Without frequent irrigation, growth would be impossible with the low yearly rainfall of less than four inches.



At Dallas Country Club, superintendent Otis Owen is now in the process of remodeling some of his greens. Among several improvements, he hopes to have greens of a texture that will properly take up the water and properly drain. In a large off-site mixing operation, shown above, Otis is preparing the following to make up the new soil: five parts sharp sand, three parts loam, one part calcined clay and one part peat. Greens at Dallas CC are watered once or twice during the day.

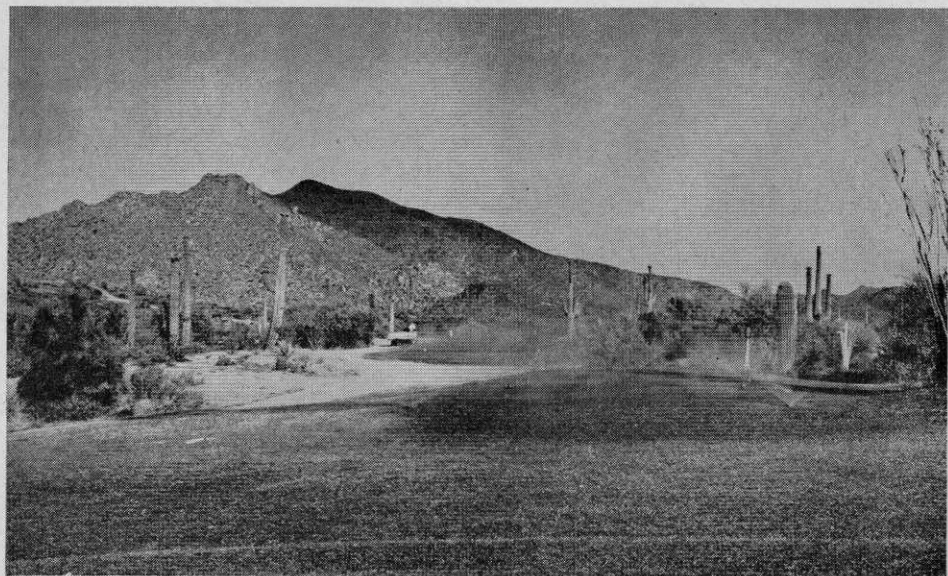
Otis Owen, left, shows how roots of newly seeded Pennncross bent have penetrated 10 inches of soil. Fairway watering is done on an average of one inch, once a week. Dallas has a normal annual rainfall of 34.55 inches.

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Desert Tamers

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In the rather hot Phoenix area, a very outstanding job has been done at the Desert Forest Golf Club, Carefree, Arizona. The design, construction and general maintenance has created in a cactus forest an oasis for golfers and wildlife. The variety and numbers of game species and other wildlife are much greater than anything we have seen on a golf course anywhere. Jay Woodward, former cowpuncher, and for several years a top-notch superintendent in the area, encourages the birds and mammals to live with the golfers. He himself is most active as a player. Normal rainfall of 7.20 inches, if not sufficient to support grasses, obviously has not hampered the growth of the Saguaro cacti, below, where tee watering is in progress. Jay Woodward is seen at right holding a burro that Jay promises to turn into a full time caddy. Taken from the wild near the course, the burro had different ideas during early training.



One of the courses open for summer play in the Palm Springs area, California, is Bermuda Dunes Country Club. With a June 22 temperature of 108 degrees in the "cool" under the trees, the Seaside bent greens, common Bermuda fairways, and flowers, below, appeared to be in perfect condition. Cleo Hardin, superintendent, like many others of the Southwest, waters fairways every other night one inch. Greens are watered once per day in the early morning hours before play starts.



During the latter part of June, a new course built on a bare hillside in Albuquerque offered a view of green from many miles around. Here, at an elevation of 5,500 feet, architect Robert Lawrence designed a beautiful layout for the University of New Mexico. (Pic at left shows view of 18th hole and clubhouse.) Vernon Ward of Phoenix constructed the course. With greens of Seaside bent averaging 11,000 square feet and fairways covered with cool weather grasses, superintendent Richard Dees has his irrigation job cut out for him. Fairways are given one inch of water every other night from heads located 75 feet apart in the 18-hole system. From an 1,100-foot well, Dees gets 1,500 gallons of water per minute to provide irrigation to an area with a rather low 8.13 inches of normal annual precipitation. ●

The rule of seven

By taking a long, hard look at his business from Personnel to Public Relations, the professional can uncover the problem areas that need correcting.

By HARRY OBITZ and DICK FARLEY
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