

Greens Mowing Not As Easy As It Looks

by Bob Williams, Highland Park, Illinois

To most golfers, the mowing of greens is just an insignificant necessity that happens periodically in the routine of course maintenance.

To the seasoned superintendent, greens mowing becomes somewhat routine too until some facet of the operation begins to break down. Then we get into all sorts of problems.

Actually, greens mowing is an art which is coupled with a number of scientific factors. To begin with, good, true, putting surfaces are one of the primary assets and objectives for any golf course. Considerable scientific know-how must go into the development of the turfgrass on these surfaces. Selection of adapted grass strains, soil mixtures, drainage, irrigation, disease control, plus many others are samples of items that have to be in balance before we get around to the mowing and grooming. The mowing of the putting green is the final touch in providing a velvet smooth surface that hopefully allows the golfer to see his ball run true to its target at the bottom of the cup.

In greens mowing, we are harvesting a crop of grass of approximately a one-half bushel per day, per green. If we skip a day of mowing, we begin to accumulate excess leaf blades that can eventually develop into graininess and matting of the leaf blades. Combs or brushes can be used ahead of the mower to help offset this tendency toward the establishment of grain.

What frequently happens unfortunately, is that when a superintendent is short handed for labor, he is inclined to skip the greens mowing occasionally. This practice eventually leads to problems of thatch, grain and poor putting. So by all means, I consider it a MUST to mow greens on a daily basis.

WANTED DEAD OR ALIVE Used Cushman Turf Trucksters (any condition)

Due to increasing demand for used trucksters from resorts, camp grounds, etc. we are now allowing top trade in prices.

Call for a free, no obligation demonstration
on the Cushman Turf Care System
for the fall aerification season.



SALES • SERVICE • PARTS
CUSHMAN MOTOR CO., INC.
2909 E. Franklin Avenue • Minneapolis, Mn. 55406
PHONE: 612 • 333-3487

In our procedure at Bob O'Link, we teach our greensmen to repair all ball marks on the green before he actually begins to mow. This avoids scalping off any raised areas. Next, we ask our greensmen to remove the flagstick to a spot far enough off the green so as not to run into it while making a turn with the mower. This practice also avoids the dropping of the pole on the green resulting damage to good puttability.

After our man has repaired the ball marks and removed the flagstick, he now proceeds to make his initial cut across the green in the direction appropriate for that particular day. This first cut is also taken somewhere near the center of the green, relative to the direction for that day. This helps him to keep his lines straighter.

CREDIT: THE BULL SHEET
JUNE 1982