

The two football fields were formulated for us by Dr. White and Dr. Blake upon a soil mixture of 92% sand and 8% peat. The seed we use is Athletic Pro Mix with Delray substituted for NK200 which is watered by an automatic irrigation system and mowed with a reel mower at 1 1/2" height. As for feeding the turf we use a slow release nitrogen firm at 9 lbs./exr/1000 sq. ft. with once a month application of potassium at 1 lb/1000 sq. ft. rate. We have had a high P.H. problem (which is monitored by soil tests once a month) that has been controlled by sulfur applications every four weeks. We have two major fungus problems being pythium rust. We are on a preventative program for pythium. Rust is sprayed as needed. If other disease problems come up, we spray as needed. So far no herbicides have been needed to control weeds because it has been done by hand. In the fall the two fields are lined and numbered with white paint upon need or every week. Along with the fields the air structure is inflated in the spring. Maintaining the bubble includes glueing the carpet and vaccuuming after each use. There also have been times when the bubble has to be hand sewn to repair tears. The one big job in the fall is removing snow from the fields with a bobcat or sweeper. Also snow has to be removed by hand from around the bubble base. The remaining grounds also call for care.

Around the main building we mow with a 21" two cycle mower for appearance. The remaining turf area is mowed with a 52" rotary mower. We fertilize those areas three times a year at 1 lb/1000 sq. ft. The plant beds are sprayed as needed with roundup. We also have 1200 bulbs planted for spring color and add perennials and annuals to the beds for color. The staff receives cut roses from two dozen rose bushes placed in a couple of the beds. The above area has it's own automatic irrigation system to cover it from low rainfall. When the rain turns to snow I also have one other important job to watch for. That being sure that Coach Grant's deer feeder is well stocked.



EDITOR'S CORNER



by

BOOTS FULLER
EDITORIAL CHAIRMAN - M.G.C.S.A.

As I sit here pondering my thoughts, it becomes relatively easy to really get discouraged about this weather. From all indications, it would appear that we are probably looking at our latest opening date in recent memory at Mankato. Those of you who were in Mankato on Monday, April 11 would agree that the weather was nothing short of spectacular, but our course was so water-logged that there was no way we could play golf.

In the days immediately following that nice day, we have seen much more rain, some snow, and generally miserable conditions so that even thoughts of opening here seem quite remote. I surely hope other parts of the M.G.C.S.A. area are having better luck than South Cenral Minnesota. We are now beginning to have some hope that everything will dry out enough so that we can get in some golf at Sundance on May 9. I wished Gary Peterson good luck on having the opportunity to host our first golf outing of the season. Today I'm not so sure he'll get that opportunity. We'll continue to hope that the weather will break pretty soon.

I was really quite pleased with the entire program at Mankato on April 11. Over 100 people attended. Kaye Corporation and Tom Dawson had an excellent demonstration of the Ransomes Equipment, and Jim Koppen, the head chef at Mankato Golf Club, prepared an extraordinary luncheon which was enjoyed by all. In spite of the fact that golf was not possible on the course, several superintendents stayed and enjoyed the

final round of the Masters Golf Tournament. Jim Wodash managed to get some "side games" going so he could lose a little of his hard earned money to some other enterprising players. All in all, it was a fun day and helped set the tone for a new season which I am sure is destined to be our very best yet.

Russ Adams has just about completed the arrangements for the rest of the season. Jim Wodash and Leif Erickson are hard at work planning our December Conference which will again be at the fine facilities of the Sheraton Northwest. Mark Smith and Don Lindlbard are starting the annual surge for research programs. So stay in touch with that.

Be sure to notice the "Unforgettable Golf Holes" in the national Golf Course Management magazine. Warren Rebholz and the M.G.C.S.A. are getting some good publicity in that magazine. Hope to see many of you at Gary Peterson's course at Sundance on May 9. Get those reservations in early.

PEAT FAIRWAYS

by

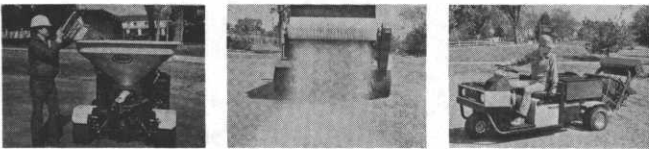
KEVIN BENSON
GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENT
EDENVALE GOLF CLUB

At Edenvale we have three fairways that are constructed on peat. For the last six years they have been deteriorating, as only peat fairways can. Most of these areas have become so rough that play and maintenance have become impossible.

For the past five years a number of things have been attempted to correct these problem areas. First, a method of plowing and recontouring, followed by heavy rolling and seeding. Only one-half of the fairway area was revamped at a time to keep the hole in play. As with most methods this proved to be only a temporary solution; within three months, deterioration had started.

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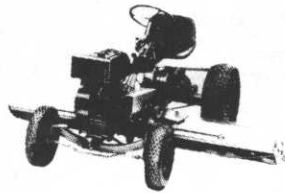
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