

# We Do It The Old-Fashioned Way

By Mike Bailey

Have you ever just sat down and thought about it? Is golf really getting too big for its britches? I mean after all, remember when golf was a simple sport? You know. Go out and rent a set of clubs, hit that little white ball all over the place and when you finish, think to say "that was fun."

Now look at golf. High tech with turbos and graphite. What in the world can you do with a "turbo driver?" Is it really a buzzword or what? Maybe you guys that drive Porsches think you can hit it farther, but I'll bet if you were blindfolded, you couldn't tell the difference. Remember when a good ol' hickory shaft was good enough? We won't even discuss graphite and carbon shafts.

Hey, and what about you golf course superintendents? Remember when you were just greenskeepers and those maintenance technicians were just laborers. Now you need a license to go out and spray those fancy bug chemicals. Next I guess they'll even want to know where you go and throw your junk away.

Now really, what's all the fuss about fast greens? Maybe we've gone just a bit too far. We measure the height of cut in "thousandths of an inch." Can you actually tell the difference? And then there's even talk about double-cutting and triple-cutting. Some guys even claim they mow their greens not only in, the morning but in the afternoon too.

Whew! Just cut the darn things and don't worry about it. I'll bet I can grind down the blade on my bush hog, put that sucker in low range, get that P.T.O. whirring like a buzz saw, and my greens will look just as good as yours.

Well, of course. It's very simple why my greens have no grain.

It's quite simple. Everybody knows grain grows towards the dominant southeast sun.

I personally think verticutting is a bit overrated. The easiest way to get rid of grain is to take a sod cutter, strip the greens and turn the sod around. This way the grain curves around from the north and yep, you've got it; NO GRAIN.

I wonder how they changed cups in the beginning. I'll bet they probably used a post-hole digger. Think about it. Why bother to buy a fancy cup cutter tool when a good ol' post hole digger will do just fine. Once you get the hang of it, there's not much difference.

Plus consider the extra benefits. Now you've got a tool that can do two things. You can even dig holes for fence posts. After all, how else can you keep the goats from just grazing anywhere?

Thatch? No problem here!

I believe a good, deep, thorough verti-cutting every spring will rid you of your thatch problem for the rest of the summer.

There are a couple secrets, however. Verti-cut only one direction, immediately fertilize and water heavy and don't mow for about a month. After that everything will be just fine.

By late summer, I can get those greens down really tight. Why mess with one of those silly little walk mowers. Even one of those new fangled tri-plex greens mowers still seems to take too long. I can put a fairway mower on that green, whip a couple circles around the green and lickety split, it's done and I'm off to the next.

The only tip I can give here is: it's best to be a hydraulic unit in order to get better reel speed on the clean-up circle pass.



## HOCKEY



### BEGINS NOVEMBER 12

It's time for the **Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association Hockey Club** to put their blades back on. Ice time is as follows:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
Thursday, November 12	11:30 a.m. — 1:00 p.m.	Augsburg "B" Rink
Thursday, December 17	11:30 a.m. — 1:00 p.m.	Augsburg "B" Rink
Thursday, January 14	11:30 a.m. — 1:00 p.m.	Augsburg "B" Rink
Thursday, February 11	11:30 a.m. — 1:00 p.m.	Augsburg "B" Rink
Thursday, March 11	11:30 a.m. — 1:00 p.m.	Augsburg "B" Rink

*Any association member is welcome to play. Ice time is courtesy of Associate members.*

*Join us for pizza at Davanni's after the contest.*