

Tom Dawson is the proud winner of the first place in a Toro sales contest. The prize was a boat and motor and an all-expense paid trip to the Toro plant in Minneapolis. Congratulations to you, Tom.

OPEN LETTER TO JOHN YOUNG

Mr. John Young  
Beaver Creek Country Club  
Hagerstown, Maryland

September 5, 1959

Dear John,

If you don't mind I'll put in my two cents' worth of recommendations on how to go about over-seeding your fairways at Beaver Creek.

You are on the right track because you know that September is the best time to seed and you are making preparations to do the job.

It seems to me your big problem will be in getting the seed in good contact with the soil. With the ground as hard and dry as it is, I'm afraid your alfalfa drill may not penetrate deep enough to make an opening for the seed. If it doesn't, then use a farm disc set straight to make shallow cuts. Run over with the disc once from tee to green, then go over again across the fairway to make sure the soil is open. Come right in behind with a chain link harrow to break up lumps and smooth.

This may sound like harsh treatment but sometimes we have to get rough. If players complain, then close the nine holes you are working on and let them just play nine. This job has to be done and done right now.

With the fairways cut up you are ready to seed. The alfalfa drill will work now or you could use a Brillion seeder or cyclone seeder. Here again I'd divide the seed and go over the fairway in two directions to assure even distribution. CAUTION: don't get too far ahead with the discing operation or one rain before seeding will mean it has to be done over.

You surely must have some merion growing from last year's seed, so for this year's seeding rate I'd use half of the amount used last year or about ~~44#~~ to the acre. Seed when the soil is dry.

If the ground is hard, rolling won't do much good, so in that case, water as soon as the seeding job is finished then, if you want to, roll it the next day. Don't let a sprinkler run long enough to start water to running, but instead water lightly and more often. Keep up the watering until the next rain - then as needed after that.

If you have not already fertilized ( I hope you have ), then do it before you disc and then water in lightly. If the ground is hard you could have the fertilizer spread by truck, but don't wait for anything. Remember what happened last year when you waited to seed?

If you can't get the fertilizer on now then go ahead and seed. You can fertilize a month later when the seed is up by using a material that won't burn, Milorganite would be my choice.

Those washes in the fairways look bad to you I know, but remember, 90% of them wouldn't show if you had good grass coverage. Stick to your seeding job, then when it's finished go ahead on the washouts. Seeding can only be done now, but ditch repairs can go on all winter.

You and Bert are to be commended on the good job you have done in building and getting your course into play so soon. Let's hope that next year you can take a little time out for golf.

Bob Shields.