

# Feed and Water Your Grass

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THE oft repeated saying, "One can tell a greenkeeper by his greens," used to be regarded as a fact, but today the greenkeeper who still regards this saying as a fact, is unknowingly lagging behind. A great deal more is expected of him.

Golf is making rapid strides, and it is up to the greenkeeper to keep ahead of it. As it is played by the leading golfers of today, golf must be met by modern greenkeeping methods, which demand grass on the fairways as well as on the greens during the playing season.

To accomplish this, irrigation and fertilization must be resorted to. On established courses where the turf is poor, topdressing with compost has been tried, which has a beneficial effect for a short time. When one takes into consideration how often greens are topdressed, fertilized, and watered, does this not in itself just about answer the question of prevailing turf conditions on fairways?

## *Topdressing Fairways Too Expensive*

Personally, I believe the topdressing method for fairways is very expensive, and unproductive of satisfactory results. There usually is plenty of grass on the fairways, but it is undernourished, and while in this condition, weeds, moss, etc., take possession. Many take the appearance of moss on a fairway as an indication of sourness or too much acidity, when in reality it is the absence of proper fertilization. If a well balanced fertilizer suited to the particular soil were used, the grass would respond and the moss would disappear.



*Watering the fairways at the Chicago Golf Club*



*John MacGregor  
Chicago Golf Club*

Fertilization alone will not certify a green turf during the hot months of summer. It must have water. A great many clubs are seriously considering a water system for their fairways. This goes to show that the average golfer of today wants to play on turf, not hard baked soil. It is

common to hear of a mediocre golfer getting a 275 or 300-yard drive on a baked course, but I have observed these same players on an irrigated course get about 200-yard drives. An irrigated course is essential to real golf, as the ball does not roll 100 yards after it lands.

## *Fertilize New Seedings*

I am certain if a little more time and money were spent in the preparation of the fairways before seeding a new course, the club would be well repaid. Fertilization can be accomplished by ploughing in a liberal application of barnyard manure, or by ploughing and seeding to oats and soy beans. When this crop has attained a height of from 18 inches to 2 feet it should be ploughed under. Either method will afford ample humus and fertilization and for a few years, the result will be gratifying.

After three years, it will then be necessary to resort to a system of fertilization to keep the grass in a healthy condition. This can be accomplished by fertilizing 9 fairways one year and 9 the following year, in other words fertilizing every two years.

## *Association Member!*

Have you invited the chairman of your Green committee to attend the coming annual programs on February 23-24 at the Hotel Fort Shelby, Detroit?

Please extend an invitation to him when you read this notice, and advise the office of the association at 405 Caxton Building, Cleveland, how many will attend from your club.

Don't forget to make your reservations early for hotel accommodations.