

Are Your Rollers Ready?

IT is very important that the fairways be rolled in the spring at exactly the right time. There is no hard and fast rule that can be laid down as to just when this time arrives for the reason that it depends so much on the season and the weather conditions. Therefore the proper time must be determined by the greenkeeper or the one in charge of the course, who must make this decision based upon his experience and the conditions encountered.

First and foremost, fairways should not be rolled until it is reasonably certain that there will be no further freezing weather. They should not be rolled until the ground is dried out sufficiently so that the roller will not unduly pack the surface soil and thereby create a condition that makes it difficult for the roots of the turf to properly function and thrive.

Never Roll Soaked Clay Ground

It will be found on many courses that certain fairways can be rolled much sooner than others and the schedule of rolling should be worked out ahead of time based upon experience of previous years or from careful observation of the existing conditions, which will be pretty clearly determined as soon as the frost is out of the ground. Those fairways which are the first to become firm under foot should be rolled previous to those that remain in a soaked condition, and then the schedule so set up that it will take the different fairways in rotation as they arrive at a condition that is proper for spring rolling. This refers particularly to courses where the soil is of a clay nature.

Where the course is built on sandy soil, rolling can be handled any time after the frost is out of the ground,

and in some cases it may be wise to roll the course several times during the season, choosing times that follow right after rains.

Fill In Low Places

It is unwise to attempt to level out a fairway by means of rolling. By this is meant, a fairway so uneven or bumpy that it would require very heavy and continuous rolling to bring the surface down to a common level. This procedure is sure to cause future trouble, due to the fact that it unduly packs the high spots, which means that the grass on these spots will gradually die out, leaving bare and unsightly patches. If the fairways are very bumpy or uneven it is much wiser to use a reasonably heavy topdressing that will fill in the low spots, rather than to attempt to roll down the high ones.

Rolling Greens and Tees

The question of rolling greens and tees involves almost the same conditions that have to be considered in rolling fairways and the same careful observation in order to determine the proper time is necessary.

The greens and tees as fast as they arrive at a condition that is proper for rolling should be rolled with a reasonably heavy hand roller. After this first rolling they should continue to be rolled with a light putting green roller, preferably of the four-section type. Precaution should be taken to see that the green is never rolled when it is wet. In rolling greens and tees the proper procedure is to roll in both directions, as this insures to a large degree the roller coming in contact with every undulation on the surface.

Winter Killed Golf Turf

THE one and only cure for "winter kill" is to prevent it by making sure that the greens, tees and fairways are surface drained. If the green or fairway is already built and is not surface drained, the easiest way to avoid winter kill is to immediately provide surface drainage. Of course there may be isolated cases where this procedure would be impossible, and in these special cases drainage should be provided that will adequately carry off the water.

The great trouble with all drainage systems that work perfectly in summer, is that once frost gets into the ground it is impossible for water lying on the surface to

get through to the drain tile. Therefore the water lies accumulated on the surface, and when spring comes leaves bare and unsightly places on the green.

Where cases of winter kill are encountered, the surest and quickest method for the treatment of these spots is to take sod from a nursery if available, and returf the spots, after first making sure that the contour of the surface has been changed so that in the future surface drainage will be insured. If impossible to change the contour of the green, then under drainage must be provided, and the surface either seeded, planted vegetatively with creeping bent stolons, or sodded.