

Spring Rolling—When and How

A composite opinion by well-known greenkeepers

Editors' Note: In response to a questionnaire on Spring rolling of fairways we print herewith four replies from widely separated districts, viz., New York, Columbus, O., Chicago and Toronto. Several others were received but limitation of space precludes their publication.

By ROBERT J. HAYES, Greenkeeper Pelham Country Club, Pelham Manor, N. Y.

ABOUT Spring rolling, I would say that there cannot possibly be any definite date given for first rolling, but of course it certainly ought to be done just as soon as ever suitable weather and turf conditions arrive.

The correct time is after the frost has left the ground, and the ground has begun to dry. As a fairly good way to test the ground for rolling, I recommend pressing the turf heavily with the foot, and if real wetness shows around

the shoe, conditions are not yet dry enough for rolling. The ground is ready for rolling when only moisture, not wetness, shows on the shoe.

For the first rolling, a straight roller should be used, to level places raised by the frost, and such spots as may have been inadequately graded. (The springy condition of the turf that prevails, you know, at the opening of Spring, makes it really possible to do this). The weight of this first roller ought to be from 2000 lbs. to 3000 lbs., depending on its length—that is, on whether it is 5 or 6 sections.

A second rolling is desirable, this time with a flexible gang roller, which more readily than the type of roller used in the first rolling, fits into the contour of the ground and ensures every spot, low and high, being rolled. Each unit in this gang roller should weigh about 500 lbs.

By JOHN MACGREGOR, Greenkeeper Chicago Golf Club, Wheaton, Ill.

WHEN to roll is really up to the greenkeeper. There is no set time. In some localities it is done sooner than in others.

I have found the best time to roll is immediately after the frost is out of the ground because then the ground dries very rapidly. By walking over the turf one can readily tell if it is right for rolling, that is, when there is no water seeping around the shoes when one walks. It will be found the time allotted is about eight days; after that time the soil has become dry, then the roller does no good.

Rolling when too wet bakes or seals the surface of the soil and excludes the air which is absolutely necessary to plant growth. Rolling when too dry does no good at all as the roller does not leave an impression. When this happens rolling may as well be discontinued.

I think every one knows why rolling is done, but perhaps I had better state why—it is to press the roots of the grass back into the soil from where the frost has pushed it, not to iron out bumps and high spots.

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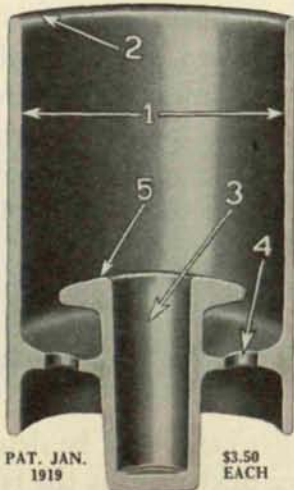
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