

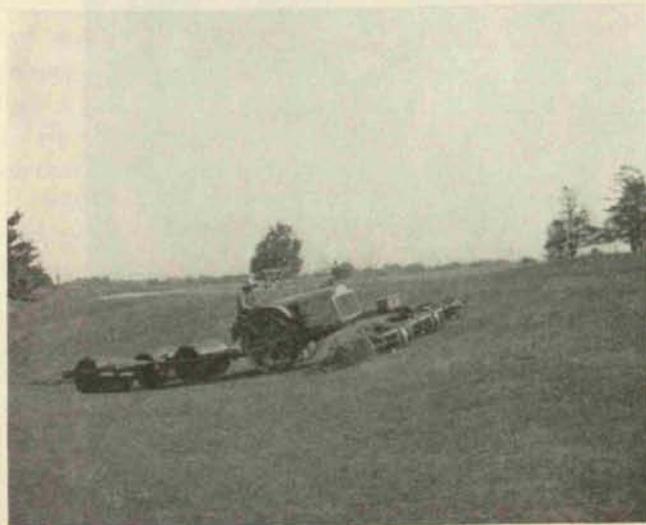
ture of the soil varies so much; generally speaking, a sandy soil will stand much heavier rolling than a clay soil. On a clay soil such as most of our golf courses are composed, a roller weighing from 1500 to 2000 lbs. and eight feet wide is ample weight for the job. I would not recommend anything heavier than those weights, it being much better to use too light a roller than one too heavy.

The number of times the fairways should be rolled can best be governed by conditions. If the greenkeeper feels that he has a satisfactory condition with one rolling, he will be well advised to let well enough alone; if he considers the grass is not sufficiently pressed into the soil, or that the surface of the fairway is still too uneven, he must watch for a second opportunity and perhaps a third; but by all means give them one thoroughly good rolling.

*By W. J. SANSOM, Greenkeeper
Toronto Golf Club, Long Branch, Ontario*

IN REGARD to rolling of fairways in the spring, I consider that judicious use of the roller is a matter that calls for the exercise of considered judgment. For whilst it is highly essential that fairways should be rolled as much as necessary to maintain a firm root run for the grass and a smooth even surface for play, it is a grave error to overdo it.

A great deal of harm may be done and often is done by using too heavy a roller, especially where the soil is of heavy clay. Rolling when the turf is saturated with moisture will do more harm than good. It is well to bear in mind that a healthy growth and



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*The rollers were made by Bateman and Wilkenson
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proper functioning of roots is impossible when air is excluded from the soil.

Sandy or stony soil may be rolled a great deal and still allow access of air simply because stones and gritty particles of sand cannot be bound tightly together, but will maintain a fair degree of openness or porosity in the soil. Where the soil is heavy and retentive of moisture, rolling should be done when the ground is dry and never immediately after heavy rains.

Spring rolling of fairways should be done as early as possible after the frost is out of the ground and the surface water has drained away. A strict watch must be kept upon the conditions of the soil and the advantage taken of every opportunity. The time to roll in the spring depends on the locality, texture of the soil and rainfall. Light sandy soil or loam can be rolled much earlier than a heavy loam or clay.

The rollers I use were made in Toronto and consist of three-sections, each section being four feet in width and weighing one thousand pounds—that is three thousand pounds spread over a width of twelve feet. I have been using these rollers for the past eight years with good results. In having a set for each of my Toro tractors I am able to get my rolling done just as soon as conditions are favorable in the spring.