

Helpful Hints

Some practical advice from experienced greenkeepers on golf course maintenance. No guesswork here

Lime and Common Sense

Years ago, we greenkeepers never were afraid to use a little lime in our soil, and those days we never had brown patch, and I'll venture to say not as much clover as you can find in some greens of today.

All we have heard these last few years has been use sulphate of ammonia and get your soil acid, than you won't have clover or weeds, but they forgot to say look out and don't overdo it.

I am using Gypsum this year—fifty pounds to a green. I find it has a sweetening effect on the soil and will not encourage clover, and can be mixed with manure as it does not react unfavorably on manure.

So here's to a little lime with common sense—better turf and less brown patch.

HERBERT E. SHAVE.

Oakland Hills Country Club,
Birmingham, Mich.

Spring Topdressing

In topdressing my greens for the first time in the spring, I find it is a good idea to add two ounces of mercury, or about one pound of Semesan and fifteen pounds of arsenate of lead to a yard and one-half of compost to a seven thousand foot green. It acts as a preventive for brown patch and is very effective in eliminating grubs and worms.

Before planting new greens I put on fertilizers, like Milorganite or tankage, and about four pounds of arsenate of lead to one thousand square feet of green raking them in to a depth of one-half inch. This method puts the fertilizer close to the stolons, and also grub

proofs the greens. The advantages of using commercial fertilizers are—much easier to handle and the weed growth is not so great as when manure is used.

J. O. CAMPBELL.

Wethersfield Country Club,
Wethersfield, Conn.

Handy Oil Filter

A handy oil filter can be made by using an oil drum and a small metal tub. The tub is punched full of small holes and then a thick layer of felt is placed in the tub and the tub on top of the drum. The oil is poured into the tub and it slowly filters through the felt into the drum where you collect a good grade of oil that will be found very useful.

If the oil is not burned or full of gasoline it can be used for oiling the small mowers and other machinery. It is excellent for the rough mower or wheelbarrows or numerous other places where the best oil is not necessary. It is also good to paint the equipment with in the fall before putting into storage for the winter.

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Breaking Up Manure

Here is a little stunt I worked out last Fall and which gave surprising results.

We made a drag of a six foot piece of eight feet high Cyclone fencing by lacing it to a piece of 1-inch gas pipe for drawbar, and to it a crotch chain to draw it by, and upon it a flexible wood frame to carry some extra weight. The frame is fastened at six dif-

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ferent points of bearings to mat, bearings are of short pieces of board about 12 inches square, stapled to mat from underside at well distributed points.

This tool is used to break up and spread barnyard manure where it is desired to be put on very heavy. The inspiration came to me when we were raking this fertilizer around by hand to break it up, etc.

We use our Ford chassis runabout to draw it and I wish to tell you it surely does the work in a jiffy that requires many hours to do by hand.

A. E. ARNOLD.

Masonic Country Club,
Comstock Park, Mich.

Damage to Poa Annua

There are probably quite a few greenkeepers especially in Illinois who find themselves reviewing the ravishing results of a hard winter on "poa annua." They will find the damage not so great as they at first thought as the seed of this grass germinates rapidly in the Spring. If the greens are left alone and not torn up, a light top-dressing with a little fertilizer mixed with the compost will bring them back very quickly. If there are any spots which do not respond mix some Cocoos Bent seed with some compost and seed these places; the result in about a week will surprise you.

Checking the Drainage System

Weak spots in the drainage system would certainly show up on the golf courses this spring, if they have not been remedied they should be marked for draining in the fall.

Moving Evergreens

If you are contemplating moving or thinning out evergreen trees, pines, spruce, etc., the best time to do this is in the month of July. Never move an evergreen while it is making new growth; if you do, every shoot will curl up and die. Wait until the growth has become ripened, then the trees can be moved successfully.

JOHN MacGREGOR.

Chicago Golf Club, Wheaton, Ill.