

Don't Forget Fall Topdressing

By JOHN ANDERSON, Greenkeeper
Crestmont Golf Club, West Orange, N. J.

I AM often asked the question, "Is it best to seed in the Fall or is Spring the best time?" My answer is, if it is possible and other conditions are right, seed from August 20, till September 20. That, in my opinion, is the best time for seeding especially in the East. There is not so much chance work then as in the Spring. The ground is in good condition and the seedlings get a good start before frost sets in.

Many golf clubs in this section are faced with a problem of topdressing and seeding their fairways this fall. The long continued dry spell has ruined many fairways and as I see it, they will have to be seeded and topdressed before they recover their normal condition.

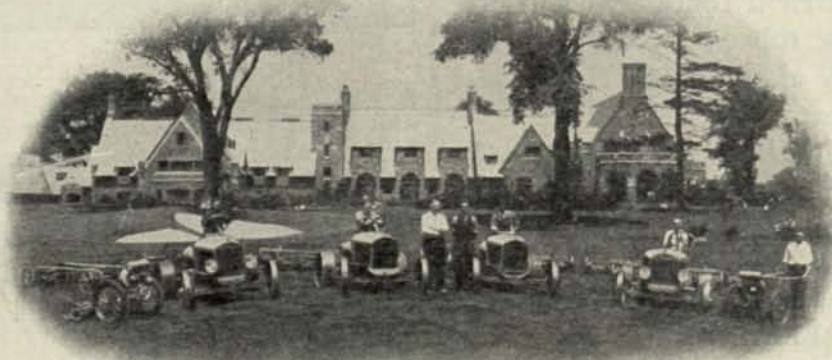
At Crestmont, we have a four years fall

program of fairway reconditioning that calls for three carloads or approximately 150 tons of mushroom soil per season and this season it is to be supplemented by 150 yards of Cow Manure which we have procured nearby. This is screened through a Royer machine and mixed with good sharp brown sand, 18 yards of sand mixed with each carload.

The sand is put through the Royer with the mushroom soil and thereby is thoroughly incorporated in the mixture. It is then carted on to the worst parts of the fairways, approaches, if poor and 150 to 250 yards from the teeing ground receiving particular attention. All bare spots are spiked or disced and seeded before being topdressed. This is the second season of this program and we have very good results from last fall's work. You bet it pays. The fairways will not receive any other fertilization.

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Seed Greens Late in August

THE greens are seeded late in August or the first week in September. Ten pounds of the best South German mixed bent is well mixed in one or one and one-fourth yards of compost and spread on each green averaging 8500 square feet. The green is spiked before compost is applied. I find that much of this seed germinates and replaces some of the natural grasses that are dying out at this season.

The compost used on the greens is a mixture of 40 per cent cow manure, 40 per cent light top soil and 20 per cent sand which has been composting at least two years. To the first topdressing in the Spring we add 20 pounds of ammonium sulphate per green and again the last topdressing in the Fall.

Except on six of our greens to which I mixed in the June topdressing, 100 pounds each of tobacco dust, they have not and will not receive any other fertilizer. On those six greens I had been particularly troubled with dollar patch, but have not seen it since, although it has appeared at different times on the others that did not get the tobacco dust. I am not advocating that as a preventative but just quote our experiment.

In closing, I would like to say to the younger greenkeepers, don't forget your fall topdressing. Put on all you can get hold of on your greens, tees, approaches and fairways. It

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Charcoal and Compost

(Continued from page 11)

practice green situated close to the clubhouse. A huge fire engine drove across the middle of the green and it did not destroy a square inch of sod. I have counted at least twenty women with high heeled shoes walk across this green and they never leave any evil effects.

I have never raised a divot on any of our short holes in two years and never have had a



THE CREW AT CHARTIERS HEIGHTS
Joseph Ball is the greenkeeper of this Crafton, Pa., course and is very proud of the men who work for him. Lower photo shows Ball on the left supervising the cutting of nursery stock

single complaint. The chief cause of maintaining a good firm surface I attribute to the liberal amount of charcoal in my putting greens.

Mid-West Greenkeepers

The regular monthly meeting of the Mid-West Greenkeepers' Association of Chicago was held at the Aurora Country Club, July 21. In the absence of President Binnie, first vice-president, M. Bezek presided.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at the Midlothian Country Club and later on to visit Knollwood.

Upon motion of Mr. John MacGregor, former president the secretary was authorized to send a letter of thanks to the Aurora Country Club.