

How We Nursed Our Golf Courses

Letters from members of the National Association of Golf Course Superintendents on preserving turf under extremely hot and arid conditions

MacGregor Hits The Nail On The Head

THE summer just passed was a duplicate of the summer of 1921 for drought. Fortunately we have a good water system, so were able to keep the course in very good condition.

There were two weeks when the temperature ranged between 100 and 107 degrees; those were anxious days and moisture seemed to disappear overnight. Altogether we watered the fairways nine weeks, twenty-four hours a day, throwing half a million gallons of water daily for the nine weeks, in all thirty-one and a half million gallons of water, which is a large amount of water to pump and distribute with a hose system.

The greens this year were sprinkled at night, nine greens each night and the results were very satisfactory. From observation would say night watering reduces the danger of brown patch; this accounts for the smaller amount of mercury used for control than in former years. We did not use mercury as a preventative but applied it immediately the disease appeared, the amount used being a quarter of a pound to fifty gallons of water per thousand square feet of turf; this amount was sufficient to control the disease.

This year less ammonium sulphate was used on the greens than in previous years and believe this is due to the fertilizer applied this spring. The greens held their color until well into the summer when light applications of nitrogen were given.



JOHN MAC GREGOR PUTTING AT SHOREACRES
This splendid course is in charge of Alex Binnie

The week of September 1st another application of fertilizer was given which will carry the greens over until next spring.

Over-watering must be avoided during the late summer, as a water-logged condition can easily result from over-watering.

The drought caused plenty of worry, but, on the other hand it eliminated the necessity of mowing the rough, which is quite an item in golf course maintenance.

Incidentally, our maintenance costs are lower than in previous years. Sometime during the winter when the nights are long I will write more about this.

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

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Shawnee Fared Well

REPLYING to your request, "How We Maintained Our Golf Courses in 1930," would say, we have nineteen greens of the Metropolitan Bent. We have our own nursery and started to rebuild the greens in 1925—putting them into Metropolitan Bent and completing the course in 1928. After the greens were planted and started to grow, we top-dressed every week for eight weeks. We now have a root growth of six to nine inches deep.

In the fall we allow our greens to get long, and about the last of October topdress with two yards of compost and from thirty to fifty pounds of sulphate. This spring we topdressed and put on one hundred pounds of 8-5-3 to the green, sulphating once each month eighteen to twenty pounds to the green. We topdressed again in June and August. Through the drought we watered greens every morning, which required six men of the eight employed on the course.

We have two Jacobsen power mowers and cut greens $3/16$ inches. We chain-mat greens when the dew is heavy in the morning and do not water.

We had the P. G. A. Qualifying for the State of Ohio, August 11, and they pronounced our greens almost perfect. We belong to the Central Ohio Golf Association and have had many visiting mem-

Through The Past Summer's Drought

Greenkeepers of America describing ways and means of dealing with drought conditions. Fairway watering is coming.

Members from distant parts of the state and also other states and all have said it was one of the best conditioned courses in the state and elsewhere. And this has been an exceptionally dry season and we get no water to our fairways.

I am a Charter member of the National Association of Greenkeepers of America and invited all members to visit our course both for inspection and a helpful exchange of ideas and the solving of problems peculiar to every greenkeeper. I hope every greenkeeper has fared as well this season as we have.

CLOYD REICHELDERFER, *Greenkeeper*,
The Shawnee Country Club, Lima, Ohio.

An Emergency Watering System

THIS year has been one of the most disastrous in greenkeeping since I have been in the game, which is twenty years more or less. Even to those clubs with water systems it was a hard problem to keep up with the terrific drought.

It hit us hard because we had no water system until August. My fairways were not of the best although we seeded spring and fall and manured every fall for four years. Very little results were seen until spring because we had no water to take care of them in the blazing hot months of July and August. They baked out hard and dry and all young grass, or at least sixty per cent of it was burned out; thus we always had thin fairways no

matter how we fertilized and seeded. It is my opinion that every one of us will be a back number without water.

It is not necessary to hold back because you can't afford to spend thirty or forty thousand dollars. Take the very difficult position we were placed in this summer—our fairways were fast drying out and impossible to play. With the ground hard and the grass gone Nature took command and sought to heal the sores in the form of dirty weeds.

Our chairman said we must do something to overcome this terrible condition and he told me to measure up all the fairways and give him an estimate of pipes and fittings. In less than two weeks I had sprayers going on the fairways.

Now I can hook up eight sprayers to every fairway and we did it all with my usual crew and without extra men. I can say it has done wonders as all my fairways are back and we are cutting them every day.

We have seeded all fairways and topdressed with good soil, using over eight hundred tons screened with a Rotary gasoline screener and much of the seed is up now.

The two greens built in the fall of 1929 and seeded with Cocoos bent were opened on Decoration Day and have been cut every day since. They are beautiful and have never needed weeding.

Finally, I don't mean to infer that my water system is in any way as good as the \$20,000 outfits,



SULPHATE A GREEN IN TWENTY MINUTES
Joseph Ball uses this outfit at Chartiers Heights C. C., Pittsburgh, Pa.



ROTARY SCREEN USED AT CHARTIERS HEIGHTS
Notice how fine the soil is. This was used for topdressing fairways