

Preparing Compost Topdressing

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AT this time scarcely two greenkeepers prepare compost in the same way. Here at Cohasse we are very fortunate in having plenty of good fertile land adjoining the club grounds, this having previously been a farm. Therefore we can readily and economically avail ourselves of sufficient topsoil with which to build up our compost piles.

The base of the pile is a thick layer of topsoil, which is then covered by manure, then more topsoil, and so on, until the pile has been built the desired size. One part manure is used with two parts topsoil. This pile is turned with forks once or twice a year to mix it well together, we using an older supply which we keep on hand.

We have a large barn nearby in which we keep several yards of dry compost, and here also we have a Royer compost machine, and on rainy days, or during other broken time,

we run this material through that it may be ready when needed. The Royer machine was not designed to screen compost but to pulverize it and separate the large or medium sized stones from the finer material, but by placing a large screen of five-eighths mesh about five feet from the front of the machine, we get very satisfactory results, as nearly all stones large enough to be objectionable rebound off the screen and are thus prevented from becoming mixed through the topdressing.

Certainly, a few stones up to the size of a white bean go through the screen, but I have found it best to sweep the greens after each application of compost no matter what type of screen is used. For power we have a one and a half horse power electric motor attached to the scaffolding above.

Two men work this machine to the best advantage; one to pass the compost to within a few feet of the machine, while the other shovels it into the hopper. In this manner we can prepare three yards of material per hour, which seems to be a very great saving over the old methods of screening. Also the compost prepared in this way is so much finer and can therefore be spread more easily.

I am well aware that few greenkeepers have such a valuable supply of topsoil available and in many instances are handicapped by lack of shed room for storage, etc. which so simplifies the problem of preparing compost.

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New Golf Course at Del Monte

Another new golf course is to be laid out on Monterey Peninsula. This important information was made public for the first time when S. F. B. Morse, President of Del Monte Properties Company announced a \$1,000,000 budget for new improvements in the Del Monte area. The new links is to be laid out adjacent to the steeplechase course East of the present Del Monte polo plant.

Construction of the steeplechase course will be initiated this summer. However, Morse states that the golf course is to be built at a later date when required. The object in laying it out now is to plan it so that it will border and overlook the steeplechase course without interfering with the latter in any way.