

As I continue to dig into the old golf magazines like the USGA Green Section, Golfdom, and the earlier versions of GCM I have been pleasantly surprised by some of the ideas and issues of the day. Little has changed and some of our new ideas are only being recirculated!

Take for instance the underground hose reel that came out from Rainbird some years ago. This is an idea that first appeared back in 1928 by the Philadelphia Toro Company!! This photo is from the November 1928 issue of Golfdom.

In some cases, like with any invention, it takes time for technology to catch up with the idea. Frostbite® is just one example of technology catching up to a pretty novel idea. In the question and answer segment of a USGA Green Section record for 1923 they are asked, "has anyone tried to bring about an artificial result similar to frost with a view to killing crab grass?" There was mention of some experiments with an ice and salt mixture and some early refrigeration devices that were unable to get cold enough temperatures to damage the crabgrass. Artic Inc., a company out of North Carolina has finally brought the idea of using "refrigeration" as a possible tool in controlling crab grass. The device uses compressed carbon dioxide to mimic the effects frost has on crabgrass and other weeds that are susceptible to cold weather injury.

In an effort to measure turf sponginess Charles H. Allen developed a device that used a 150 pound weight that he dropped on the green to measure the degree of sponginess. Allen was trying to determine the benefits of different applications of lime and compost in reducing the sponginess on velvet bent greens. This photo is from Golfdom's January 1947 issue.

The USGA using a similar idea developed the TruFirm to measure firmness of the green that helps to prepare greens for tournament golf and can also be used measure the firmness of greens in wetting agent studies currently being done by Jim Baird here in Northern California.



Invisibe Hose Reel provides convenient storage and lowers labor and hose costs.



Charles H. Allen demonstrates compressometer which he designed at R. I. Agricultural Experiment station to measure springiness of turf.

No. 4 February and 1928 in the Lake Merritt Golf and Country Club

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