



## 'COPTER SEEDING A GOLF COURSE

An Aerial Patrols Bell G-2-A seeds a fairway of Country Club Village, near Canton, Ohio.

**G**OLF COURSE SEEDING used to be a "make hay while the sun shines" proposition for many golf course contractors. Iberia Earth Moving in cooperation with Aerial Patrols recently found a way to get around many of the weather problems associated with golf course seeding.

Last July, two fairways of a new 18-hole championship golf course at Country Club Village near Canton, Ohio, were seeded by an Aerial Patrols helicopter in about 1½ working hours. Howard Williams, the contract supervisor, said the entire course could have been seeded by helicopter in about two working days. A comparable project using standard seeding techniques normally would have taken 12 work days, even with good weather. And "good weather" was in short supply this past season, Williams reports. Not one full work week was completed

between the first of the year and seeding time without some "down time" due to bad weather conditions.

Even though seed bed preparation must be done under favorable conditions, helicopter seeding can be done when soil surfaces are too wet for conventional seeding methods.

The helicopter seeding project was directed by Terry Ewing, owner of Aerial Patrols. A Bell G-2-A helicopter carrying two seed tanks with a total capacity of 960 pounds was used to spread a slurry of water and seed. The slurry was mixed in a truck tank (900 pounds water to 60 pounds seed ratio) and then pumped into the helicopter seeding hoppers.

The actual fairway seeding rate was 60 pounds per acre. To assure even seed distribution, the helicopter seeded at a 15-pound-per-acre rate, thus requiring four passes for each fairway acre. The wind cur-

rents produced by the helicopter blades served a useful function, forcing the seed slurry into the ground in a uniform pattern. The helicopter traveled at about 35 mph while broadcasting the seed slurry. After seeding, the fairways were covered with a mulch material to retain soil moisture and assure maximum germination.

Lewis Busler, Iberia president, has high hopes for this new seeding technique. Plans are to use it in a much larger scale for some of the new golf course seeding projects now in the rough grading stages.

Not only is golf course seeding by helicopter a new technique but the seed mixtures used for this course also represent a departure from what have traditionally been accepted as the "best" turf for championship quality fairways . . . namely Astoria and Highland Bentgrass. The new Country Club Vil-



Jack Mackenzie, Aerial Patrol pilot, is getting instructions from Lewis Busler, president of Iberia Earthmoving Service, golf course contractor. Iberia construction superintendent Howard Williams has paused to take a look before dumping seed into the tank on the pickup truck. The seed was mixed with water, then pumped into the helicopter's tanks.



Seeding by helicopter accomplished the same amount of work that would have taken six times longer by conventional seeding methods.

lage fairways will consist of a mixture of several new improved turfgrass varieties. Northrup, King & Co. supplied a fairway blend of 25% Prato Kentucky Bluegrass, 25% Fylking Kentucky Bluegrass, 12½% Holfior Colonial Bentgrass and 37½% Pelo Perennial narrow leaved Ryegrass. This particular mixture of turfgrass varieties was selected because it can withstand the short mowing heights demanded on championship fairways. It will also require far less maintenance than the traditional fairway grasses. This kind of blend reduces the cost involved for irrigation and mowing and reduces the danger of serious disease problems.

Use of Holfior Colonial Bentgrass is interesting in that it is a "non-creeping" bentgrass. It is instead an upright variety that does not have creeping qualities and provides an excellent fairway surface from not only a golf course superintendent's standpoint but also for even the most critical golfer. Because of Holfior's upright growth habit, leaf texture and color, it is compatible with Prato, Fylking and

Pelo, thus creating a uniform lush turf of a deep rich green color. Northrup King also supplied a 50-50 blend of Holfior and Pelo for tees and green aprons. The Pelo Ryegrass was used because it will establish fast, but with the short mowing heights it will receive on tees, it will eventually fade out leaving a low maintenance, durable tee box of Holfior Colonial Bentgrass.

Edmund Ault, the course architect of Bethesda, Md., feels this new layout will be most challenging with its 11 lakes, 60 sand traps and 7,300-yard par 72 rating. The new course should also be an excellent layout for spectators, as the 18th green will have terraced embankments for tournament viewing.

The new Country Club Village course will be irrigated by an electric-hydraulic Toro Moist-A-Matic irrigation system. All irrigation panels are centralized and can be controlled from one master board. And if all this isn't enough, the new Country Club Village club house and pro shop are part of a 12-story high rise apartment complex complete with what else . . . a helicopter landing pad.

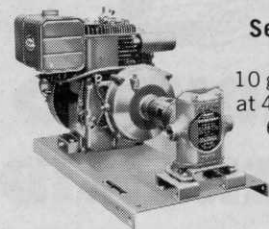


Mulch was spread after seeding to retain soil moisture and assure maximum germination.

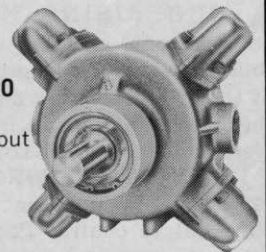
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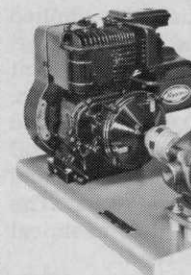
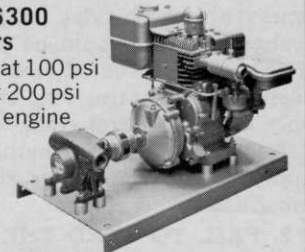
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