

EACH SEASON is a winning season for Bill Moolenaar.

He does it using a proven battery of turf management methods backed up by a bull pen loaded with years of experience in handling unexpected problems.

Bill is superintendent at Dodgertown, spring training home of the L. A. Dodgers baseball club. The Dodgers boast the most complete, well-equipped spring training facility in the major leagues. The complex covers over 300 acres near Vero Beach, Florida, and includes tennis and basketball courts, swimming pool, housing for players and their families as well as the press, two golf courses, and certainly, 3 baseball diamonds.

The baseball fields are treated in exactly the same manner as the golf course fairways. Fertilizer is applied twice yearly. Constant attention and inspection head off disease and insect problems before they can create seri-

ous damage.

The golf courses are open to public membership and a portion of the complex, called Safari Pines, is devoted to private residences. Bill Moolenaar, with the help of 18 men, manages the grounds for the entire complex.

Because of the heavy traffic between January and April, Moolenaar overseeds Italian rye in his bermuda greens. "Most superintendents who oversee know that overseeded greens need special treatment," says Moolenaar, "but its just a matter of getting the work accomplished."

To get his courses in shape for overseeding, Bill starts in May, just after the players leave, with an herbicide program.

"Crowfoot and crabgrass are my biggest problems here. MSMA and 2-4-D (amine formulation) take care of them pretty well. In September, I'll follow-up with a spot application or two in trouble areas," he says.



At the spring training camp of the National League Champion Los Angeles Dodgers, superintendent Bill Moolenaar pitches a . . .

Turf Disease Shutout

A routine disease control program is followed all summer. And he sprays a preventive fungicide every two to three weeks.

In early Fall the greens are aerified and verticut to retard the bermuda growth while getting rid of any thatch problems. Also, early aerifying allows the bermuda to heal for a more uniform putting surface after seeding. "Depending on the weather, I overseed anytime between Thanksgiving and Christmas," says Moolenaar.

A week to 10 days before overseeding, he launches a special program to make sure that his course is free of disease and insects. He applies Acti-dione Thiram and Proxol 80 SP in a combination tank mix at recommended rates, "The two chemicals are compatible, so why make more than one trip?" he says. His biggest disease problems are pythium, helminthosporium and dollar spot and in the warmer periods of late summer,

brown patch. Sod webworms, cutworms, army worms and at times, mole crickets are his insect threats.

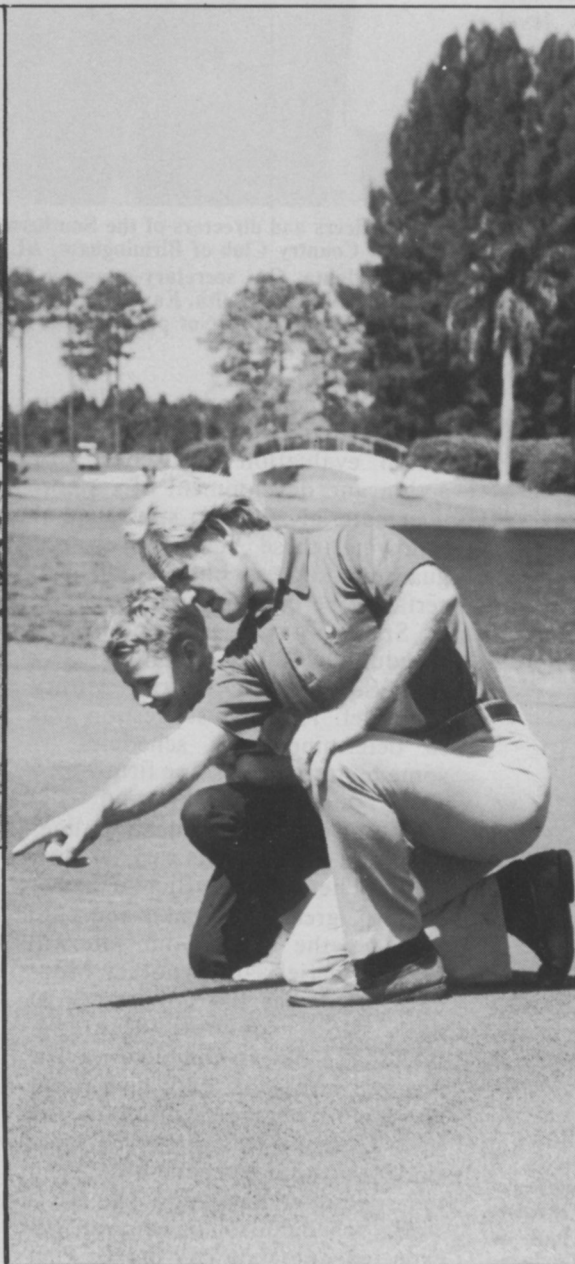
About 5 days prior to overseeding, he topdresses sterilized soil and applies a low-nitrogen high P & K fertilizer.

All greens are seeded in a 2-day period. "It's more work all at one time, but we get all the greens off to an equal start this way," says Moolenaar.

Immediately after seeding, he follows through with another fungicide-insecticide treatment to protect the newly-emerging seedling at one of its most critical periods. The Acti-dione Thiram-Proxol application is repeated again each week for the following two weeks. After overseeding is established he sprays again, followed by two more sprayings at 7 and 10 days.

"Because the insects come out at night, we like to spray in the late afternoon. That puts a fresh application out there when it's needed," he says.

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Far left: Bill Moolenaar looks for turf problem areas during a scrimmage game. **Left:** "Good technical assistance from your suppliers is essential," says Moolenaar, shown checking some application rates with TUCO plant health representative, Bill Maxwell. **Above:** If a twosome has to wait to tee off, they can frequently pass the time watching the Dodgers work out in batting cages adjacent to the golf course. **Right:** Moolenaar's children sometimes accompany him as he makes his rounds. **Far right:** Being superintendent of Dodgertown is serious business but Moolenaar often finds time to share a laugh with his crew members.



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A Legacy of Parks — The Surplus Property Program: Federal government properties declared surplus are made available as parklands to local governments through 1970 legislation. State and local governments are notified of availability and can apply for title to the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation. The federal government deeds this land at little or not cost.

Land and Water Conservation Fund: The Bureau also makes matching grants to states and, through them, to municipalities for public recreation areas including golf courses. To qualify, a state must develop a comprehensive statewide outdoor recreation plan and update it regularly.

Farmers Home Administration Loan Program: To develop facilities for use in rural areas, the Administration is authorized to make loans to communities unable to raise funds from commercial sources. Applications can be made at county offices of the Administration.

For a copy of a list of federal assistance programs related to out-

door recreation, write U.S. Government Printing Office, Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D.C. 20402. Interested communities can obtain a list of golf course architects by writing: American Society of Golf Course Architects, 221 N. LaSalle St., Chicago, Ill. 60601.

SHUTOUT (from page 15)

After the greens become established, Moolenaar slacks off only slightly with his fertilizer and spray program. All through the winter months, the greens are sprayed every 10 days to 2 weeks on a routine basis. They are fertilized every 2 weeks for a more consistent fertility level. Heavy applications at less frequent intervals would be leached out through the porous soil by heavy rains.

Because of the extreme heat on certain days, he waters 3 to 4 times each day but for only a short period of time. "This keeps the greens cool and gets the seed off to a good start," he states.

Normally, Moolenaar tries to water the greens in the morning while covering the fairways at night.

Getting his greens off to a good start has rewarded him with a long, healthy stand throughout the spring. "We had rye here last year until May, although it was beginning to thin out a bit in April," he says.

"Mr. O'Malley (Walter O'Malley, owner of the L. A. Dodgers) is an avid golfer as well as a baseball fan," says Moolenaar. "He encourages all of the players to get out on the courses."

"In fact, the Dodgers use the courses to build good community relations with the people of Vero Beach. Each year they host a tournament where the Safari Pines members and the Dodgers get together. Each foursome includes a team member. The community really supports the team, too," he says.

After the baseball players leave in April, Moolenaar takes a breather — but it's a short one. He has to get the complex in shape for the arrival of the New Orleans Saints football team in mid-July. Last year was the first year that The Saints leased the facility for summer camp-but he looks forward to having them back on a regular basis.

"Their cleats aerify the outfield for me," he says. □

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