

Fairway Treatment at Mayfair Golf and Country Club

By Y. K. McClenahan

Owing to a rather limited staff of workmen we have not been able to do much in the way of top-dressing our fairways here at Edmonton, Alberta, but the results of what we have been able to do on our approaches have certainly repaid us amply. The redtop and Kentucky bluegrass turf of our fairways is now six years old. Our soil is sandy, and our fairways are not watered. Three years ago we top-dressed



Fertilizing fairways with a horse-drawn, end-gate lime spreader.

our approaches with compost, using a wagon and spreading the compost with shovels. Last year we included also sulphate of ammonia in our fertilization program, and as our fairways are not watered we had to take advantage of rainy days to make the application. It then took the entire staff to broadcast it by hand. We have recently, however, procured an end-gate lime spreader for the purpose, and by this means are able, with two men, to make a much quicker and better application of the sulphate and compost. The lime spreader is drawn by a team of horses, one of the men driving the team and the other feeding the hopper. The compost is dragged with a chain harrow after it is spread, so that scarcely a trace of the compost is noticeable and play is interfered with not in the least. It has been our experience that even a few days after the application of sulphate of ammonia a distinct benefit to the

turf can be seen. I might add that by adjusting the feed this spreader can be used also for seeding. We use a rotary screen for preparing the compost top-dressing for our greens, the coarser material (passing through the lower half of the screen), being used for top-dressing the approaches.

Our tees are treated the same as the greens, being top-dressed every third week. We have some trouble from winterkilling, but in such cases the dead turf is raked over, seeded, and top-dressed, and when the young grass is established it is fertilized with sulphate of ammonia.

I am afraid we have not been using compost and sulphate of ammonia here long enough to check the growth of weeds. All of our approaches, however, have a far better turf than the rest of the fairways, which have not been treated; and it is quite probable that if a regular fertilization program can be followed for our entire fairways, within the next five years very little of the weeds will remain.

Visibility is the first requisite for the ideal golf course. A player should be able to see what he has to do, golf being a test of skill and not guesswork. The second requisite is fairness.