

SPECIAL PROBLEMS OF TEES

As various improvements have been made in playing the game, short and long tees have come more in demand. The changing from one set to another materially affects the playing of the course from the architect's standpoint and also lends an added interest to the game to the regular players on the course. Moreover, two or more tees to a hole are of great help to the greenkeeper, since they afford him opportunity to do needed repair work to one tee or set of tees while the others are in use.

The teeing surface has not only been increased by the system of building two or more tees to a hole, but the surface of the individual tees has been increased. Tees elevated high above the fairway and with steep banks add greatly to the cost of maintenance. However, with increased teeing space has come a more sensible mode of construction, resulting in gradual slopes which can be mowed with fairway units.

Some holes can be greatly improved by elevating the tees so as to bring into view landing areas or greens which the player on the tee otherwise would be unable to see. Except for such cases it however improves the landscape to build the tees so as to conform with the natural topography. It is easy to make the elevated tee less conspicuous by carrying a long grade away from its surface so that it may blend more closely with the surrounding landscape. When tees may be built practically flat on the ground, so much the better. An elevation of a foot or so from the surrounding ground is usually advisable to give the tee increased drainage, which is necessary since play is concentrated on it. When tees are built low and with long slopes running from them they may be easily mowed with the fairway mowers at the same time as the fairways, or if built in positions where the fairway mowers can not reach them it is easier to mow a slight grade than it is a steep one, with a tee mower.

The topsoil of the tees should be prepared as for putting greens, and drainage, wash and seepage should likewise be taken care of.

Tees are usually seeded to the same mixture as the fairway, only more care is taken to secure a thicker and tougher turf. Since tees are put to such hard usage, it is usually advisable to seed the tees before either the fairways or putting greens in order to give the grass longer to fill in. However, everything can not be done at once, and frequently the tees are let go, so that it is advisable to sod at least one set, on which the members may commence play, while the others may be seeded and be given more time for the turf to become established. On short holes the wear on tees is particularly severe, since iron shots are played from the turf and large divots result.

SPECIAL PROBLEMS OF SAND TRAPS

On low areas sand traps are liable to become flooded and sometimes to remain so for days after a heavy rain, whether the soil is sand, clay, or silt. This flooding occurs also on traps built in heavy, close-textured soil, even though the traps may have plenty of elevation. Sand traps, whether around greens or in the fairways, should be more or less open in the front and elevated as much as possible in the rear. This form of architecture aids in the drainage of the traps as well as in giving the player a chance to see not only the location of the traps but to a large degree the extent of the hazard.