

About 1½ yards of loam are spread on each green in the spring with shovels, and then smoothed with a wire mat. We maintain a compost pile of sandy loam, which is two or three years old before being used. The material is screened before being applied to the greens. We also remove at least two inches of the topsoil from the compost pile before using it on the greens in order to get rid of most of the weed seeds that are certain to find lodgment in the material. Two or three times a year the greens are gone over with a roller of medium weight. The greens are built up enough to provide sufficient surface drainage, so that we have not found tile drainage necessary. As fertilizer we apply ½ yard of sandy loam mixed with 7 pounds of sulphate of ammonia to each green about every three weeks during the summer months.

The greens are mowed every day except Sunday. We find that in general they may be sufficiently brushed by dragging the hose over them, although when worm-casts are present we have recourse to brooms, and at times also we find the use of a fine-toothed rake very beneficial. Early morning watering seems to give us the best results and is at least less expensive than attempting to water at night. We have not found it necessary to resort to reseeding any of our greens except, of course, where crab grass has been cut out or where ball holes must be filled.

(The 1928 United States National Amateur Championship was held at Brae Burn.—EDITORS.)

The Putting Greens at Olympia Fields Country Club

By Fred Kruger

Of the 72 greens which are at Olympia Fields, there are 42 vegetative greens; the other 30 are mixed grasses of fescue, bluegrass, bent, *Poa annua*, red top, and *Poa trivialis*. The different strains of grasses are evenly distributed except on one green, the 18th green on No. 1 course, which is fescue and *Poa trivialis*, the latter predominating. I think this is the best green of the 72. The greens average about 7,500 square feet, varying according to the shot.

We pole the greens every morning the very first thing. We never mow a green under any circumstances until it has been poled. The mowing is done with hand mowers, always catching the clippings. Once a week during the growing season we recut the bent greens with a power mower using a steel brush in front to stand the runners up. Sometimes we find it necessary to recut some of the greens at different angles.

The top-dressing is made of our local soil, which is a heavy clay loam, of which we use three parts soil to one part sand. We use 1½ yards of top-dressing to our greens. The top-dressing is applied with a tractor and trailer which is driven straight across the green, the top-dressing being thrown on with the scoop shovels. It is matted with a steel mat, brushed twice and finished with a rotary sweeper without the catcher.

We do not make compost piles for our top-dressing, as we have found that with a variation of the different grasses in our greens a compost pile is not necessary. We cart the topsoil in alongside of our compost sheds and pile it up the year before we are to use it. The following year we shoot it into our compost sheds through a

power shredder. We do this work in the dry season of the year so that it goes into the sheds in very fine, powdered form; then when we wish to rescreen this for our greens there is very little waste. The waste from the rescreening we use to repair the divot holes in the fairways. Our compost sheds have cement floors and a good circulation of air. The soil, as I said before, is always put in the sheds during the dry season and is always powder-dry and ready for immediate use. The compost is needed most for our greens after wet weather, and unless sheds are built for circulation of air, which keeps the soil dry, I think compost is more likely to be detrimental than helpful. Our sheds have been the means of saving a good many dollars for the club and of increasing the efficiency of the work in general.

A combined fertilizer and fungicide, which is composed of urea and an organic mercury compound, is used on the bent greens, and sulphate of ammonia and poultry manure on the mixed grass greens, sulphate being applied with a barrel cart, fungicide with a sprayer, and the poultry manure thrown on by hand.

We sprinkle in the extremely hot weather every other night for about five hours. The quantity of water varies very much, as on some of our greens we use a very large sprinkler while on others we use sprinklers of smaller size.

The cups are moved every morning. This past season we have been able to take care of the weeding along with our routine work on the greens, although prior to this we have employed women especially for the purpose. On the greens of the mixed grasses we find it necessary to do some reseeding throughout the growing season in order to thicken up thin spots in the turf. The bare spots are first scratched with a hand rake made of nails and a small piece of wood, and the seed is then applied mixed with very finely screened soil. At times also bare spots need attention on our creeping bent greens, and for this purpose we have a bent nursery.

Just before it freezes we close the course and give the greens a fairly heavy top-dressing. The only rolling done is with a light roller in the spring of the year. We never roll until the grass has started growing.

The only temporary greens which we maintain on our courses are on the course which is kept open for play all winter, and then these greens are used only when the frost is coming out of the ground, when it would be sheer folly to let anyone on the regular greens. These greens have nothing done to them until the fall of the year, when they are given a heavy sand top-dressing.

(The 1928 United States National Open Championship was played at Olympia Fields.—EDITORS.)

Standardized Flag Sticks

By W. L. McAtee

A piece of golf course equipment that is mentioned in the Rules of the Game of Golf, and upon the character of which scoring at times depends, one would think should be standardized. The exact dimensions of the hole are specified, but nothing is said of the flag stick that fits into it; the weight and size of the ball are dictated, but the flag stick which may permit or bar entry of the ball into the hole is ignored.