

A Rapid Resodding Job

By C. O. Bohne

August of this year found our No. 1 green at the Audubon Country Club, Louisville, Ky., in such poor condition that, in order to be ready for a tournament soon to be played on the course, arrangements had to be made to reconstruct the green in haste. The surface drainage of the green was poor, the soil was a very heavy clay under a thin top layer, and there was practically no underground drainage. So defective was its construction that an extended rainy period the preceding June, followed by an unusually severe drought in July, put the green in such condition that it failed to respond to the special treatment administered with a hope of restoring the turf. On the morning of August 12, which was Monday, we tore the green up, commenced its reconstruction at once, and on the following Saturday it was opened to play.



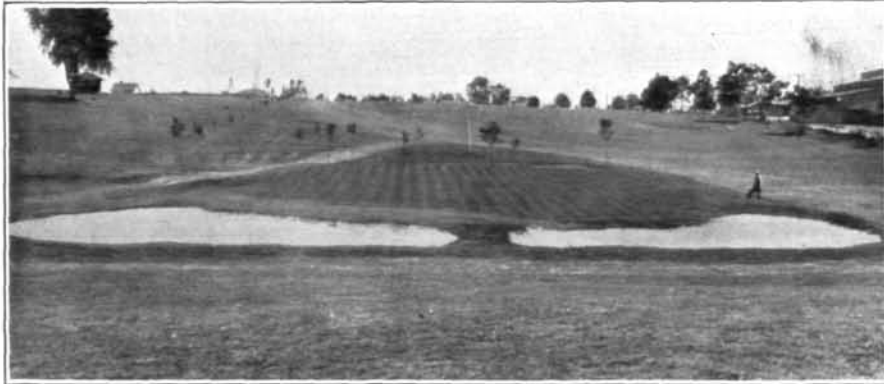
Rebuilding No. 1 putting green at the Audubon Country Club. On the second day of the work, after the old sod had been removed and proper tile drainage installed, a new 8-inch top soil is being prepared.

It was 4.15 o'clock Monday morning when we started the work. We employed two shifts of 14 inexperienced men each, whom we hired at 40 cents an hour. The first shift was relieved at 11.30 in the morning, the second shift continuing the work until 7.15 o'clock that night. The old sod was first lifted; then 297 feet of 4-inch tile was laid 36 inches deep, and the trench was filled with 26 cubic yards of cinders to within 12 inches of the old surface.

The following day we again employed the two shifts of men. The soil of the green was pulverized and carefully prepared for the new sod. From our bent nursery we removed 7,540 square feet of Washington bent sod and laid it on the newly prepared surface. The sod was then rolled, top-dressed, and watered. At 1.30 o'clock in the afternoon of the third day the job was complete.

In preparing the new surface of the green, 9 inches of soil was taken from the forward half of the old green and placed on the rear. The traps were doubled in size to furnish sufficient earth to make a perfect grade of 3 per cent over the entire surface of the new green. Twenty-two cubic yards of humus and 22 cubic yards of coarse, sharp sand were scattered over this surface, together with 50 pounds of

44 per cent phosphate and 50 pounds of sulphate of ammonia. These materials were thoroughly mixed with the top 8 inches of soil, the double-disk harrow going over it 12 times, thus putting the top soil in approximately perfect condition for receiving the sod. Arsenate of lead was also applied to protect the turf against grubs.



The same green on the fourth day after the rebuilding work was begun.



On the sixth day the green is in play.

The cost of the work was as follows: Labor, \$272.90; fertilizer, \$25.10; cinders, \$24.70; sand, \$46.12; tile, \$8.90; humus, \$44.00; estimated overhead of 15 per cent, \$46.44; total, \$468.16.

There were 315 games of golf played over this green on Saturday and Sunday, the 6th and 7th days after the work was begun. The green has been in constant play ever since, with no apparent signs of injury.

Nature's program is to return to the soil what is produced from it. You can not continue to cut turf and remove the clippings indefinitely and completely without depleting the soil. Therefore organic material must be returned to the turf, preferably in the form of compost, if the turf is to be maintained.