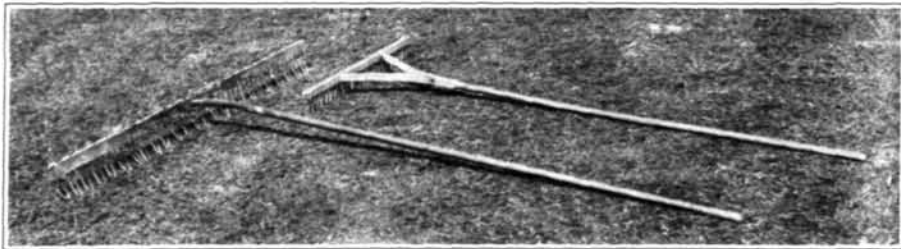


Home-Made Leaf Rake

The removal of leaves and other litter from golf turf is usually a costly procedure. Machines have been developed in recent years designed to speed up this type of work and reduce the labor cost, but on most courses the leaves are still removed by use of the hand rake. The ordinary wooden hand rake, designed primarily for raking small lawns, is the most common implement in use for this work. A good many of the common gardening or lawn tools have been decidedly improved in recent years to meet certain requirements in the maintenance of golf courses, but the lawn rake has seldom been modified.

At the Meadowbrook Country Club, in the Detroit district, there is in use a modified lawn rake which has proved to be much superior to the common rake. This modified rake was designed by William H. Aston, chairman of the green committee of that club. The change was made by merely increasing the width of the rake to 48 inches, the customary width of rake being about 23 inches. In making this rake, Mr. Aston states, a $\frac{7}{8}$ -inch pine strip $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide and 48 inches long is used. Into this holes are bored, not larger than the wire to be used for the teeth, one inch apart on the $2\frac{1}{2}$ -inch way of the strip. The teeth are made by bending 12-inch lengths of heavy wire into the form of a staple and inserting them half their length through the holes. The ends of the wire are turned and fastened securely to the wooden strip. The staples are then bent forward as in the ordinary wire rake so they will slide under the leaves. An ordinary rake handle is then attached.



Much time can be saved in raking up leaves and other litter if a wide rake is used

This rake, which covers a much wider area than the ordinary rake, is much more effective in removing a light covering of leaves from a comparatively flat area. There is little increase in its weight over the ordinary rake. Men who use these rakes state that they are no more difficult to handle than rakes of standard size and that with them one can cover a much greater area in a given time. It is a simple device which anyone can easily make from material readily available.

A rake of this kind with teeth on both sides, Mr. Aston points out, would be very desirable, one side to be used for pushing and the other for pulling, simply by turning the rake over as desired. The operator could turn such a rake over and by pushing ahead could walk away with great piles of leaves in a fraction of the time it would take with the ordinary raking motions.

For raking around flower gardens, shrubbery, or similar irregular areas of turf such as are found around lawns, the standard rake is to be preferred, but there seems to be no reason why a much wider rake can not be used to advantage on the larger areas of a golf course.