

GOLF IN FROSTY WEATHER

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Every golf club has its die-hard who will brave frozen fingers and frozen greens to attempt play under Arctic conditions, when the course should be closed. Frost itself does not cause any appreciable damage to turf and, indeed, most greenkeepers welcome a period of frost to give the course a rest.

Playing on frozen greens, however, will cause damage, particularly when the surface has thawed and the underlying soil is still frozen. Plant tissues are bruised readily during frost, and a distinct browning effect can be observed when the thaw takes place. Footmarks often can be observed after play on frozen turf and these may persist for weeks. There may be root damage as well. This is more likely when there is a sudden rush of golfers as soon as the thaw commences. Root damage may be caused as a result of a shearing action — the golfers' feet pushing the moist unfrozen surface across the frozen sub-surface.

Also, the surface of greens may be disturbed badly by the players' feet.

If play is to take place, damage can be minimized by the use of frost holes on the approaches. The importance of this cannot be stressed too strongly, and when labor permits, every effort should be made to maintain the approaches in good condition. Such temporary greens often can be used, not only in frosty weather, but also as a temporary measure while top dressing, etc., is being carried out on the green itself.

Apart from damage, there are other possible after-effects of frost and snow. It is probable the frost will have lifted the soil and disturbed the surface. A light roller is often necessary to restore a true putting surface. More serious is the risk of disease. *Fusarium* patch or "snow mould" is common after the greens have been covered in snow, and the normal controls such as mercuric compounds of Beadeaux malachite preparations should be used in its control.

TURF NURSERY STOCK IS A CRITICAL MATERIAL

"More clubs need better nurseries of superior grasses which fit into the economy scheme." Fred V. Grau, October, 1950, issue of *GOLFDOM*.

Military authorities have stated a need for planting material of improved grasses for use on specialized areas in connection with the reactivation of many military installations.

Some greenkeeping superintendents have been asking: "What can I do?" Growing a nursery of the improved grasses that can be maintained economically is a job every greenkeeping superintendent can do. Turf grasses that can be maintained with little or no irrigation water, without the need for pest control, and with a minimum of mowing and fertilizer requirements will be useful on every golf course. If these nurseries can be used as a reservoir of material

for use on military establishments, they will serve a double purpose.

The Green Section will furnish to member clubs and to Green Section Service Subscribers small amounts of planting materials of those grasses which are not commercially available. Sources of supply will be furnished upon request for those grasses which are available commercially.

INTERESTING READING

GOLF COURSES - DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION AND UPKEEP. Edited by Martin A. F. Sutton, F.L.S., F.R.S.A. Reading, Sutton and Sons, Ltd., 1950. Price \$5.00. This is the second edition, the first having appeared 17 years ago. The illustrations are of high quality and the text is extremely readable. Many students of turf will wish to have a copy of Sutton's GOLF COURSES on their book shelf alongside USGA's TURF MANAGEMENT by H. B. Musser.