



Better Turf for Better Golf

TURF MANAGEMENT

from the USGA Green Section

EVERETT QUEEN: HIS GOLF COURSE AND HIS METHODS

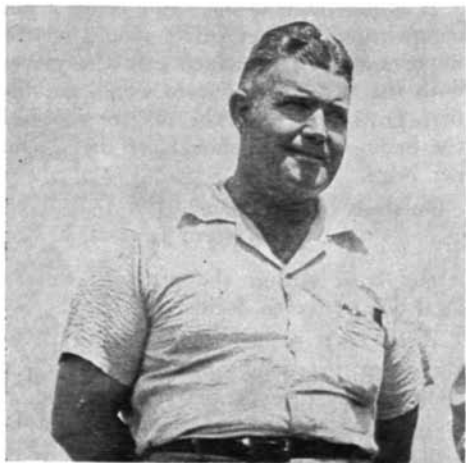
By MARVIN H. FERGUSON

USGA Green Section Southwestern Director and National Research Coordinator

EVERETT QUEEN didn't go to much extra trouble in preparing his golf course for the 1955 USGA Women's Open Championship. It wasn't necessary. He keeps the Wichita (Kans.) Country Club course in near championship condition at all times. It's that kind of a golf course and he's that kind of a superintendent.

One person described the condition of the course as "magnificent." The course, which is only five years old, is characterized by large rolling greens planted to a mixture of Arlington and Congressional bent, and wide close-clipped aprons of Seaside bent. There are some 54 large sand bunkers and fairway turf is an excellent stand of bluegrass and Highland bent.

This golf course is not an easy one to keep. The wind is an important factor in this respect. On most days the wind varies from 15 to 30 miles per hour or more. The rolling character of greens requires careful watering to keep high spots wet enough and low spots dry enough. Imagine the difficulty of trying to use fixed sprinkler locations to water such greens, particularly when you can't predict the wind velocity. The answer, of course, is to make use of a great deal of hand sprinkling. Daytime temperatures in mid-summer can run pretty high in



EVERETT QUEEN

Wichita. The high temperatures coupled with low humidity and high winds can keep a water man very busy. One can see readily that Queen must stay "on top of his job" and that he must have a good training program for his employees.

Queen has been at the Wichita Country Club for several years. He worked with W. E. Updegraff, an outstanding golf course superintendent, prior to Updegraff's resignation in 1953. Before coming to Wichita Queen had been superintendent of the golf course at Abilene, Kans.

In his relatively short tenure as superintendent at the Wichita Country Club Queen, working with Frederick L. Dold, Green Committee Chairman, has made a number of improvements. One of these is an extensive tree planting program. A large number of pines and some deciduous species will make the golf course even more attractive in the future.

One of the secrets of Queen's success is good planning. An important part of his planning is a training program for new employees. His thoroughness and foresight is reflected in the following outline which he furnishes in mimeographed form to new employees:

**MAINTENANCE PROGRAM OUTLINED
TO EDUCATE NEW WORKERS**
*(Routine operations of maintenance
which generally determine the stand-
ard of playing facilities.)*

GREENS WORK:

Poling, sweeping, mowing putting surface, mowing collars and approaches, mowing outer banks, changing cup holes, watering, spike rolling, aerifying, fungicide treatment, topdressing, fertilizing, weeding, patching, repairing ball marks, insecticide application, compost, and topdressing preparation.

TEE WORK:

1. Mowing, moving markers, servicing ball washers, cleaning litter, sprinkling, topdressing, seeding divots, fertilizing and weeding.

FAIRWAY WORK:

1. Mowing, sprinkling, patching divots, repairing holes, picking up paper, cans, trash, etc.

ROUGH WORK:

1. Mowing, cleaning underbrush, picking up paper, trash, cans, etc.

TRAPS AND MOUNDS:

1. Raking, weeding, trimming, and clean-up work.

MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS

GREENS:

1. Removing dew and moisture

from grass on putting surface.

- a. Remove with a chain drag, as provided.
2. Mowing greens.
 - a. Mow on schedule.
 - b. Mow greens different directions (6 or 8).
 - c. Always mow in straight line, except two rounds around the outside putting surface.
 - d. Make all turns of machine on shoulder of green; never on putting surface.
3. Placing cups.
 - a. Selection of spot is the most important.
 - b. Never set any closer than 8 feet from edge of green.
 - c. Replace plug in old cup holes very carefully, keep very smooth and level.
 - d. Keep cup setter sharp and make clean cut.
4. Repair ball marks.
 - a. Raise mark with tool provided.
 - b. Be careful, do not injure grass.
 - c. Raise evenly and press with foot for smoothness.
5. Mowing shoulders, approaches and trap collars.
 - a. Mow regularly.
 - b. Be careful with mower. Do not scalp or skin grass.
6. Repair divots.
 - a. Fill with soil if grass divots haven't enough roots to live.
 - b. Seed when necessary.
7. Eliminate all weeds and foreign grass from green.
 - a. Pull or cut out with knife.
 - b. Repair spot left from removal of foreign matter.
8. Keep area well groomed.
 - a. Keep clean of all weeds, Johnson grass, grass clippings and anything else, such as paper, bottles, match books, etc.

9. Sprinkling.
 - a. Supplementary sprinkling as needed for good grass growth. Make a follow-up check of night sprinkling.
10. Report any condition which calls for superintendent's attention.
 - a. Fungus diseases, brown patch, dollar spot, copper spot or what seems to be a moldy condition.
 - b. All evidence of worms and grubs.
 - c. Any condition that requires help in fulfilling.
11. Applying fungicides and insecticides as directed.
 - a. Always under close supervision of superintendent.
12. Control of ants and gophers.
 - a. Use poison on ants with proper procedure.
 - b. Trap gophers, using spring traps provided.
13. Patching spots on greens as directed.
 - a. Make every effort to eliminate all bare spots.
14. Keep shoulders, approaches and trap collars in good repair.
 - a. Fill and grass over all holes and low spots.
 - b. Level off all high spots that tend to scalp or where the grass is skinned off through mowing.
15. Keep hose coiled up and out of immediate playing area.
16. Keep all automotive equipment off green shoulders and approaches.

TRAPS:

1. Keep grass and weeds out.
2. Keep sand loose; don't allow to cake or harden.
3. Keep sand pulled toward edges. Do not leave steep edges.
4. Rake smooth and level lengthwise.
5. Report when additional sand is needed.

COMING EVENTS

1955

Aug. 9-11:

Third University of Florida Turf Conference, Gainesville, Fla. Dr. Gene C. Nutter.

Aug. 10-11:

24th Annual Rhode Island Field Day, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, R. I. Dr. J. A. DeFrance.

Aug. 15-19:

American Society of Agronomy Meetings, Davis, Cal. L. G. Monthey.

Sept. 7-8:

Penn State Field Days, Pennsylvania State University, State College, Pa. Prof. H. B. Musser.

Sept. 15:

Lawn and Turfgrass Field Day, Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station, Wooster, Ohio, Dr. R. R. Davis.

Sept. 23-24:

Edmonton Turfgrass Conference, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Prof. R. H. Knowles.

Sept. 27-28:

Northwest Turfgrass Conference, Pullman, Wash. Prof. A. G. Law.

Sept. 30-Oct. 1:

Utah Turfgrass Conference, Utah Copper Golf Course, Magna, Utah. J. W. Richardson.

Oct. 3-4:

Rocky Mountain Turfgrass Conference, Colorado A. & M. College, Fort Collins, Colo. Prof. George A. Beach.

Oct. 6-7:

New Mexico Turfgrass Conference, New Mexico College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, State College, N. M. Clarence E. Watson.

Oct. 19-21:

Central Plains Turfgrass Conference, Kansas State College, Manhattan, Kans. Chester Mendenhall.

TEES:

1. Move tee markers daily.
 - a. Keep tee markers in good repair.
2. Repair divots.
3. Police and keep clear of all paper, rubbish, etc.
4. Report and ask for replacement of unsightly or damaged benches.
5. Service ball washers.
 - a. Keep ball washers clean, filled with fresh water, and replace towels daily.

6. Fertilize when needed.
7. Seeding.

FAIRWAYS AND ROUGHS:

1. Mowing.
 - a. All fairways and up to green shoulders.
 - b. All roughs, including cleaning of underbrush around trees, shrubs and fences.
2. Check and follow-up night sprinkling and irrigation. Supplementary day sprinkling when needed.
3. Check for holes, ruts and rough spots.
 - a. Fill, level and seed.
 - b. Repair divots.
4. Keep fairways and rough clean. (Papers, cans, trash, etc.)
5. All tools and equipment are to be given special care and properly stored.
6. Keep automotive equipment off shoulders and approaches.
7. Avoid driving equipment across wet or soft areas.
8. Inspect regularly out-of-bounds and yardage distance markers and keep in good repair.
9. Keep all fences repaired and clear of grass and weeds.
10. Clean grass and weeds from rough areas and around trees and shrubs.

SPRINKLING AND IRRIGATION:

1. Sprinkling.
 - a. Sprinkling greens, tees, fairways.
 - b. Sprinkle on regular schedule, as directed by superintendent. Check daily for time set.
 - c. Check area for too much water or too little and report to superintendent.
 - d. A follow-up check on the results obtained.
 - e. Keep all automotive equipment off greens, shoulders and approaches.

TURF MANAGEMENT

The book "Turf Management," sponsored by the United States Golf Association and edited by Prof. H. B. Musser, is a complete and authoritative guide in the practical development of golf-course turfs.

This 354-page volume is available through the USGA, 40 East 38th Street, New York 16, N. Y., the USGA Green Section Regional Offices, the McGraw-Hill Book Co., 350 West 42nd Street, New York 36, N. Y., or local bookstores. The cost is \$7.

- f. Avoid driving equipment across wet or soft areas.
2. Irrigation (flood).
 - a. As assigned by superintendent.

ASSIST IN ALL THE FOLLOWING DUTIES AS DIRECTED BY SUPERINTENDENT:

1. Mixing topdressing.
2. Hauling topdressing.
3. Repairing pipe lines.
4. Cleaning irrigation and sprinkler outlets.
5. Repairing sprinklers.
6. Repairing flags and flagpoles.
7. Fertilizing.
8. Control of weeds.
9. Keep all sprinkler valves level, smooth, and grassed around.

When employees know their duties and carry them out properly, the superintendent has a much easier life and he can spend more time finding ways to do his job more efficiently and providing greater pleasure for his golfing members. An outline such as this should help a great deal in aiding employees to learn their duties faster.

One other factor contributes to Queen's success and the satisfaction of his employees. He plans his budget carefully and he keeps accurate account of his expenditures.

The Wichita Country Club members must be proud of their superintendent and their golf course.