

the practice area undertakings all the more impressive.

### SOME MANAGEMENT IDEAS

Promising, but not revealed by the data, is the array of approaches being tried for solving some of the practice area maintenance problems more effectively and efficiently. Included are such things as:

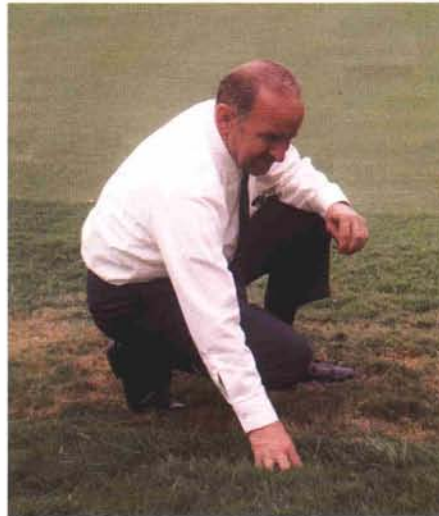
- Use of growth retardants on range fairway (to cut mowing requirements).
- Designation of "in-use" portion of teeing area with rope, pinned to the ground, and moved as needed for better control of wear patterns.
- Multiple use of range turf, including using it as fairway turf nurseries and as product testing areas.
- Use of artificial netting/screening and/or plantings as safety barriers or as backstops on short ranges (making small ranges more nearly ideal in size).
- Use of shallow (2" depth) circles of sand as target areas.
- Restriction of one area for woods only (cutting size of teeing area in need of higher-intensity management).
- Use of compaction-limiting mesh material (Enkamat) on teaching tee area (combined with other management procedures to speed turf recovery).
- Regular teeing area topdressing and/or divot filling with soil/seed mix.
- Enlisting assistance of golf professional and golfers in maintaining surface smoothness by placing soil/seed containers on "in-use" teeing areas.

In summary, it is unfortunate that too many older courses find themselves with nowhere to go for adequate practice area development. Even some of the newer courses have been remiss in providing for this most desirable, if not absolutely essential facility. Nevertheless, golf is not neglecting this need altogether.

Of course, there remains much room for improvement. Very much to the credit of the golf course superintendent, they expressed, almost to a man, a desire to be able to upgrade practice facilities. One in particular summed up the most important aspect of the problem this way:

"The practice range is always the lowest-priority item in my budget. Every year I propose funding for improvements and a higher level of maintenance. Every year this is the first item to be eliminated. It looks like we'll just have to make do until the year comes when there is absolutely nothing else extra that needs doing anywhere at the club."

## Al Radko Retires



**E**VERY NOW and then, if a profession is lucky enough, some special person comes along with exceptional talent, unmatched thoughtfulness and total dedication. Al Radko is such a man!

No one has worked for the good of golfing turf and the golf superintendent through the USGA Green Section

longer than Al Radko's 35 years. He has traveled much of the world. He was responsible, to a large degree, for the rehabilitation of Japan's golf courses immediately after World War II. He was responsible also for the construction and care of the USGA's gift, "Ike's Green," to the White House in the early 1950s. Since graduating from the University of Maryland in 1948, he has held every possible position the Green Section has to offer: technician, agronomist, Northeast Director, National Director, Research Director, USGA Championship Course conditioning responsibilities, as well as editor of the *Green Section Record*. The USGA has been his sole employer and agronomics for golf his total avocation and occupation.

There is probably not a turf conference in the USA that Al Radko has not addressed at one time or another. There is probably not a publication in our field today that has not carried an article written by him.

For that young lad from Yonkers, New York, who has loved golf all his life — "teeing up time" is here. The good will and warm wishes of everyone who has known him or been touched by his untold contributions to better turf are extended to him in his retirement. May all his pars seem like birdies, and all the smiles in golf be as broad as his.

---

## MAINTENANCE Aids

---

### A TIP FROM

#### TIM HIERS

Former Golf Course Superintendent,  
Suntree Country Club,  
Melbourne, Florida

Traffic control "buttons" are excellent for control of carts and remind the driver to stay on the asphalt path. There was no turf to the left three months prior to gluing these "buttons" with epoxy glue at Suntree Country Club, Melbourne, Florida.

