

Meditations of a Peripatetic Golfer

When the spring comes, there is to most people an intense desire to worry the soil. Nevertheless, late summer or early fall is the time to harry the soil on a golf course.

"Yes, we use a complete commercial fertilizer and get good results," says one of my greenkeeper friends. We do not doubt his statement at all; but it is not economical. As a rule the potash and phosphorus in such fertilizers rarely help grass at all, and the freight paid on the filler is dead loss.

Soggy spots scattered over the course in early springtime. They are bully indicators of the places that need more drainage.

A natural, undisturbed soil surface is often beautifully undulated for a putting-green. Much better than any artificially made flat surface.

"Rome was not built in a day"; neither can good golf turf be secured in one season unless the soil conditions are remarkably favorable. It is much cheaper and more satisfactory to spread the construction of a new course over two or three years than to waste money in the endeavor to accomplish it all in one season.

Did you ever notice how quickly the grass starts to grow with the first touch of spring? That's one reason why the fine turf grasses should be seeded in the fall—so as to get that first, quick jump in the very early spring.

"Haste makes waste," is an old adage worth heeding. The fellow who tries to grow good turf quickly regardless of knowledge and experience learns that it is perfectly true.

Lovely shrubbery and entrancing flower beds about the clubhouse. "Swatting the pill" is not the only joy derived from golf.

There will be a free-for-all fight when we start discussing the question when and how to water greens.

A green committee of three that holds a session with the greenkeeper every Sunday morning. That's what we call team work.

The penalty for failing to replace a divot should be \$5.00 and costs for the first offense, and 30 days for the second.

A brass stencil costing less than ten dollars, a few boards, and a little paint will make a world of signs warning members to replace divots, to remove footprints in sand traps, and to avoid climbing tops of bunkers.

Few golfers seem to believe in "signs." Put them up anyway. The ordinary man must read a thing seven times before he remembers.

Show me the compost piles and I'll tell you what kind of a green committee is in charge.