

Winter Covering and Use of Greens

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Answers to Nos. 3 and 4 of *Questions and Answers* in the November number of THE BULLETIN (page 320) lead me to relate certain experiences we have had at Woodland.

We tried dressing putting greens with manure, and found that while we had an earlier showing of green in the spring, still there seemed to come a chilling after we removed the manure, which set the grass back so that in the end such greens came into good condition later than greens which had not been covered in that way. We also found that if we left the manure on long enough to get by the sharp weather, the grass became yellowed and tender. The result has been that we gave up that procedure. I have since found that Mr. Shanahan, of the Brae-Burn Country Club, had reached the same conclusion, and he referred to some other greenkeepers who had done the same.

I have noticed during two or three years back that with the first freezing weather the turf around the cups seemed speedily to become browned and almost killed. After the cups had been in place for a day or two I would get complaints that the cups had not been moved for two weeks and that the turf around them was getting all worn out. This puzzled me a good deal, because after two or three weeks of freezing days we did not get the same results. Last fall I allowed a light wagon loaded with kindling wood to pass over my door-yard lawn for convenience on a morning after one of the early freezing nights. Although the ground was frozen so that the wheels did not sink in at all, I noticed that the marks of those wheels showed brown all through the fall, and then continued to show in the spring for two or three weeks after the rest of the turf had become green. After carefully examining the grass which showed these marks and the grass about the cups on the greens which showed similar results, I came clearly to the conclusion that no use should be made of putting greens while they were frozen during the early freezes, believing that when the first freezing occurs the grass stems are still full of juices, and in that condition (that is, with those juices frozen) tramping on the grass breaks it down and mutilates it much more severely than at later times when the juices have receded and the grass has become sufficiently pliant to bend without breaking. This fall I have not permitted the use of the greens on mornings following a freeze, but have kept the men off until later in the day when the grass has thawed out. The results have demonstrated that we have correctly answered this problem so far as Woodland is concerned.

How to keep crab grass from tees.—A shaded tee will always be free from crab grass. Therefore plant a row of trees on the south side of the tee so that it will be kept shaded most of the day. The same scheme would work on putting-greens, only the trees would be in the way. On the tees the trees are really desirable, both for shade and to protect the good grass.