

Mixing and Screening Soil with an Old Threshing Machine

We believe this idea originated with Mr. William J. Rockefeller, of the Inverness Club, Toledo, Ohio. At any rate, Mr. Rockefeller gave us a description and illustration of the old threshing machine he is using for making and sifting compost, which were published in the September, 1922, number of THE BULLETIN. It is interesting to note here, however, that the idea has been successfully adopted by the Kenosha Country Club, Kenosha, Wisconsin. We have received a letter from Mr. F. T. Neff, of the Kenosha Club, accompanied by two illustrations of the equipment he is using. Mr. Neff writes as follows:

"For screening our soil we purchased an old threshing machine of the vintage of about 1912; paid \$50 for it, and fitted it over, and to my mind it has all the patented machines beat a mile. It puts the stuff through just as fast as you can give it to the machine, and with a proper mesh sieve gives the results, and a plenty. I find, to use the slang phrase, 'It is the berries.' As Mr. Rockefeller says, it will take all that you can throw into it, and the soil is well mixed and falls under the machine as you see it in Figure 2. One man is shoveling in sod and black dirt, another manure, and the other sand. The proportions can be varied as one desires. We usually mix with one shovel of each, and add ammonium sulfate as we think we need it. The machine is stripped of everything except the cylinder and the beater just back of it, which kicks the material back and forth on the cylinder until it is thoroughly broken up. It then falls upon the sieve, which as we have it is quarter-inch mesh, and as the agitator and sieve are going back and forth the fine, well-mixed compost falls through to the ground, while the stones, grass, or any other coarse material is shaken off the back end. There is no loss, as the fine, sifted dirt is immediately ready for top-dressing, and the coarse material can be used over again in the compost pile or spread upon the rough where needed. We generally use our coarse material on the tees or bad spots on the fairways. There is only one thing that is quite necessary; the materials should be dry or



Figure 1. Threshing machine belted to tractor



Figure 2. Mixing compost with an old threshing machine

as nearly so as possible, for if the soil is damp or wet the machine will necessarily clog, more or less.

"Another thing we use it for is in making our compost pile. We run the manure through as we get it in the rough, which breaks it up or shreds it, and with the black dirt, sod, and sand we get a mixture almost ready for use, or at least the material is put into a condition to decay more quickly.

"We run our machine with a * * * tractor, as you will see, which gives ample power. We can take the machine anywhere we need it and go after the results. There are any number of old machines standing around in the country that have been laid aside out of use, and certainly clubs can buy them at very low prices, and thus perhaps make a market for disused and out-of-date threshing machines. At any rate we have saved many times the price of ours and can have all the soil we want in a hurry. Thanks to Mr. Rockefeller for the idea."

[A word of caution might be added. These threshing machines were not constructed for such heavy work as beating up sods, etc. At one golf club the cylinder in one of these old machines broke while going at full speed. Fortunately no one was hit by the flying pieces.—EDITORS.]

Some U. S. Golf Association Decisions on the Rules of Golf

Question.—August 26 my club had a qualifying round of 36 holes for the championship of the club, and on Saturday, September 1, the first round of the match play was started. Kindly advise me whether or not the player that played 9 holes of the course before starting his match is disqualified on account of playing in advance of his competitor on the day of the competition and if so what his standing would be, having played through tournament and winning the championship.

Answer.—There is no penalty for a competitor playing over the course before the match play rounds. The penalty is imposed in medal play only.