

to. After such applications the soil should be tested again at intervals. When finally the mixture of soil extract and the solution of bromcresol purple yields a clear and bright yellow color, the soil has reached a degree of acidity which is usually injurious to the weeds commonly troublesome in bent greens, and beneficial to the bent.

It must be borne in mind that soil which is not acid naturally, will tend to return to its natural non-acid condition, and that therefore continued applications of ammonium sulfate must be made, as needed, in order to keep the soil in a desirably acid condition.

The Value of Well-Kept Approach Areas

By Irving Hill, Lawrence (Kansas) Country Club

While it is true that every green committee must draw a line somewhere around each green to indicate a limit for spending money on the upkeep of the green, it should not be overlooked that in the end it is actually more economical to be liberal in the drawing of this line than to attempt to effect savings by restricting the area of upkeep for the green within too narrow bounds. Furthermore, what is more offensive to the eye or distasteful to the player than to approach a green encircled with coarse turf, bare spots, piles of rubbish, rock, bushes, tile ends, exposed pipe, fittings, hose, or what not? On our own 9-hole course, where we maintain fairly good bluegrass fairways and putting greens on an appropriation of \$3,600 a year, the tendency is to draw this line of upkeep at the edge of the putting surface itself, which encourages and tolerates not a few evils. As a matter of fact, if that line were drawn to include the area about the green within which a player is entitled to try for a chip shot to the hole, it would really prove more economical and certainly more satisfactory.

As a player draws near the hole, the character and frequency of play becomes concentrated. Balls and players cross a line, which means a change of clubs for the player and of tools for the greenkeeper. By evening up the bumps and draws usual in these approach areas, the fairway mower can then come in close, thus enabling the greenkeeper to fix a line, depending on the size of his green and the slope of the hump, so that there will be no middle-ground or dividing line between the fairway mower and the green mower. This line is simply a cutting line for the two kinds of mowers. A common mistake is to use it for a limit line of top-dressing, surfacing, raking, smoothing, weeding, and watering. Siftings are disposed of on or near it. Instead of mowing one to four times around the green to make the turn of cross mowing vary, the mower is turned and manipulated always along that line. That makes bare spots. Water erosion enters the edge of the green. This means additional work and care. There are cuppy lies and subsequent divots.

Fertilizer from the green makes the fairway grass grow unevenly along that line. Fertilized spots grow tall, while other spots remain short. Moreover, crab grass and weeds are only too frequently allowed to run wild in these bunches of long and short grass, making the doorway to the green look unkempt and being unfair and uneven to the ball. Especially in the most-played entrance to the green is it necessary that the weeding, smoothing, and fertilizing be

extended several feet into the fairway. In case a green is already too large, the same results can easily be obtained by moving the cutting line inward. And this also applies to the edges of traps as well as the edges of greens.

In brief, why can not one line be established for cutting, and then back of that a line established to which the work will be carried on, so that the turf on both sides of this mow line dividing the fairway from the green will be free from defects against a well-played ball? The smooth, close, clean putting turf of the green would then have a frame or setting, which would make a good finish for the labor expended on the green. Such an area once established back from the line of the green will mean weed seeds farther removed and less expense for maintenance and will at the same time be more fair to the player.

Boost the Green Section!

If you know a golf club which is not a member of the Green Section, give us its name and address, so that we may write to it.

Every golf club in the United States and Canada should join in our movement for better turf and more economical turf management.

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

QUESTION.—If a player in a hazard is by actual measurement closer to the flag than his opponent, who is on the green, who should play first? The definition of a putting green is "all ground within twenty yards of the flag, except hazards." In my opinion even though a person is nearer the flag, if he is in a hazard, he is deemed not to be on the green at all and should play first.

ANSWER.—Whichever ball is farther from the flag must be played first, regardless of whether that ball lies in a hazard or not. See Rule 7.

QUESTION.—Is it at any time permissible to tee a ball one or two clubs' lengths in front of the markers? During a recent pro tournament one player teed his ball two clubs' length in front of the markers on several tees. It so happened that on several tees the markers were so far back that a player could not obtain a full swing owing to obstacles in the rear of him. On the first tee, for instance, an iron rail was only about 1½ clubs' lengths in the rear of the markers. The players were sent out in pairs together with a referee. The player above referred to declared he was allowed to tee in front of the markers, and the referee permitted him to do so. This information, however, was not conveyed to the other contestants.

ANSWER.—The markers placed on the teeing ground designate the limits of the course to be played. A player has no right to tee his ball in front of the disks. In medal play, the ball must be re-teed and played over again with a penalty stroke. In match play, the opponent has the option of recalling the drive if he so wishes. It is the duty of the local committee to see that the disks are so placed that ample room will be allowed for a free swing. No player has a right to tee a ball in front of a disk in medal play without having the penalty imposed as described above, otherwise he will be disqualified.