

course should be closed. The majority of members have no desire whatsoever to injure the course unnecessarily and particularly to injure the greens. So, we begin by telling them walking on wet, soggy turf causes compaction of the soil and playing balls to soft wet greens tears the sod and leaves bad scars and bumpy greens. They understand the scar business all right and also the bumpy putting, but an explanation of compaction and the effect it has on good golf is harder to explain. The simple truth is that compaction and good golf turf just don't go together. The course is closed temporarily so the players can be assured of good playing conditions for the rest of the season. If the course is not closed under such unfavorable conditions, the greens may be injured to the point where it will be impossible to provide good playing conditions for the remainder of the playing season. Thus, the wishes of a few may interfere with the pleasurable golf of the many later on.

They're Grateful Later

"Well, live and learn," is the usual reaction of a reasonable member. Another says: "They're playing at the X Club and several other courses — what about that?"

The answer is simply this: Either they shouldn't be playing, or else their drainage conditions are far superior to the course in question. If the turf on the other course is not wet and soggy it should be playable. If it is wet and soggy, they will pay the price, which is a bumpy, rough putting surface; frequent aeration and topdressing during the height of the season; or, in extreme cases, the rebuilding of the greens themselves. "Boy, am I glad we didn't play!" is the invariable reply of those who really care.

Recently a sports writer for a Washington, D.C., paper made a lengthy comment on this fact. One warm sunny day in February he had called all of the golf courses in the local area and had found that all but one were closed to play because the soil was too wet, in spite of the fact that it was a beautiful day for golf. It is extremely interesting to golf

course maintenance men finally to see some positive results from an educational program which has been aimed at the best interest of golf and golfers. Our efforts finally are paying off. It must mean golf committees and golfers are recognizing the fact that because of highly variable climatic conditions, it is impossible to use golf course turf every day of the year in the Washington area and expect to have good turf surfaces at all times. The golfer pays the bill but no one but the golfer pays the price when a few permit their selfishness to interfere with the established processes of nature and the rights of others.



FERTILIZER - SEED MIXTURES

So many times we get the question, especially from homeowners: "How long should I wait after fertilizing before I can sow my lawn seed?"

Our answer invariably is: "Why not mix them and put them on together?"

Contrary to popular misconception, fertilizers *do not burn lawn seeds*. We have known of fertilizer-seed mixtures which laid in the bag for more than a year without damage. Storage was dry, of course.

When a fertilizer-seed mixture is sown, the moisture in the soil starts at once to dissolve the fertilizer and to swell the seeds. By the time the seeds have sprouted (7 to 14 days) the fertilizer has been sufficiently dissolved not to damage the seedling plant. Naturally, if a great excess of fertilizer be used, there might be some damage but even that is unlikely.

The extra bulk of the fertilizer helps the homeowner (or anyone) to distribute a small amount of seed more uniformly. One cemetery superintendent we know seeds some of our new improved grasses at the rate of four ounces of seed to the acre, mixed with fertilizer, to increase bulk and to provide stimulation for the seedlings.