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CHATHAM N J

TURF TWISTERS

Question: Recently I read something about "powdered water." I wonder whether you have information regarding its use on a golf course.
... P. W., CALIFORNIA

Answer: It seems that the National Cash Register Company has been successful in producing powdered water for industrial use. The powder is manufactured by coating tiny particles of water with gelatin. Although dry to the touch, the powder can easily be crushed or dissolved to a liquid state. The producer is adapting the technique to coat bank deposit slips and other forms — so that carbon copies can be made without the use of carbon paper.

Science has indeed made some unusual advances in recent years. However, the practical use of "powdered water" on the golf course seems to be many years away if it is in the future at all.

Question: We have heard favorable comments of oiled sand scrapes on country courses in California, and we would be interested to learn of the method of preparation and composition of the material used.

Our course is situated 45 miles north of Adelaide in the Barossa Valley, a district famous for its many wineries and vineyards. We have a temperate climate, which we imagine is very similar to yours—rainfall is 22 inches, spread mainly over the five winter months, viz. May—September. Our soil is sandy loam topsoil over a clay base, varying in depth from twelve feet to a few inches in parts. The course is on an area of 160 acres, and we have no suitable water to water grass greens, and we feel that good sand scrapes are our best plan.

... J. M. L., SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Answer: There are few golf courses in the United States using oiled sand scrapes as "greens." To our knowledge, all golf courses in California now have grass greens.

In the United States, grass greens are preferred by the golfer because of superior putting qualities and beauty. Bentgrass greens are found from the deserts to the mountains and from Texas to the Canadian border.

If your area has a climate similar to California, we feel reasonably confident that bentgrass could be developed on your course. A reservoir or well that could furnish $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches of water per week for putting green areas is necessary. This is the maximum irrigation requirement during the summertime in coastal areas of California. If at all possible, grass greens at your course should be attempted.