Oct. 27, 1925. 1,559,520

T. McC. FAIRBAIRN ET AL

PUTTING GREEN AND SIMILAR PLAYING SURFACE

Filed Nov. 14, 1922

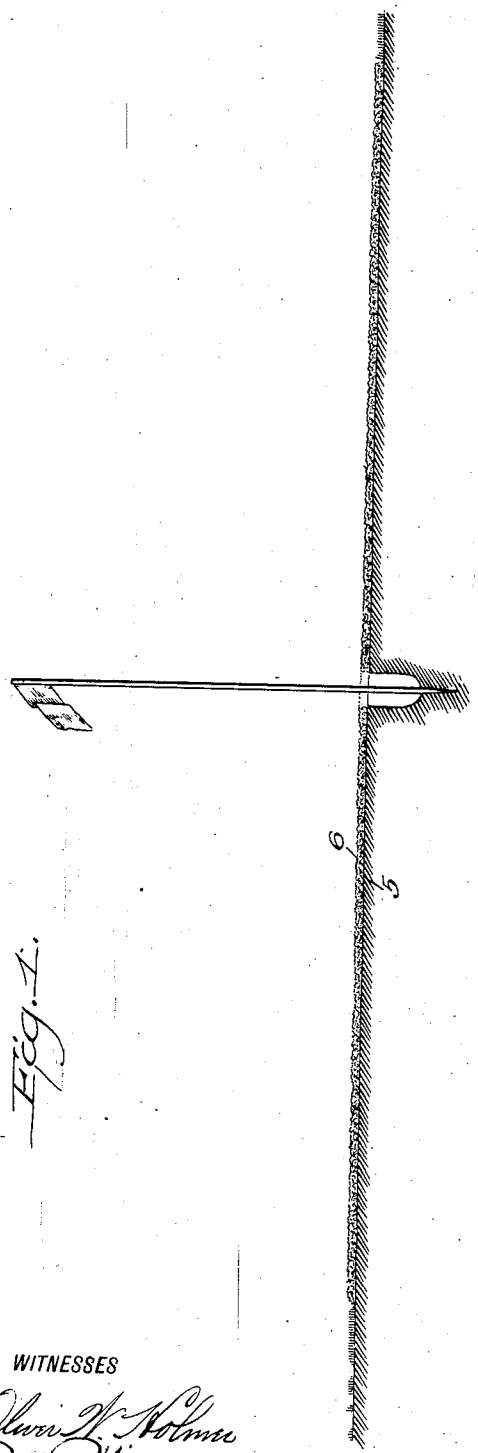


Fig. 1.

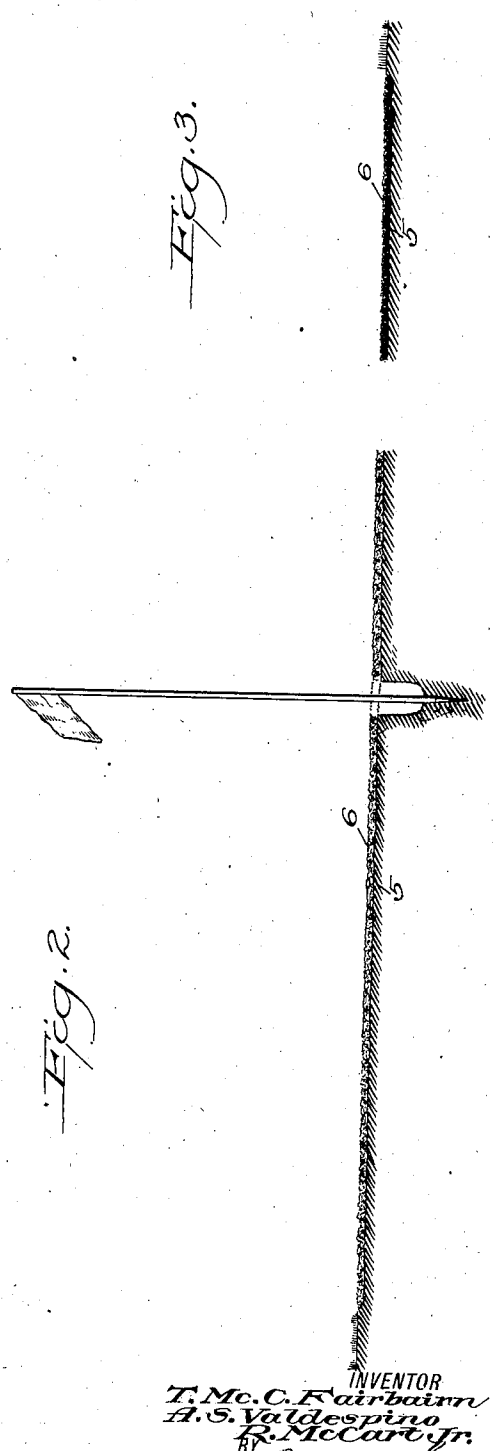


Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.

WITNESSES

Olwen L. Holmes

P. H. Gattison

INVENTOR

T. Mc. C. Fairbairn

A. S. Valdespino

R. McCart Jr.

BY Munn & Co

ATTORNEYS

Patented Oct. 27, 1925. 1,559,526

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

THOMAS McCULLOCH FAIRBAIRN, OF TLAHUALILO, DURANGO, MEXICO, AND ALBERT SAMUEL VALDESPINO AND ROBERT McCART, JR., OF EL PASO, TEXAS.

PUTTING GREEN AND SIMILAR PLAYING SURFACE.

Application filed November 14, 1922. Serial No. 600,991.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, THOMAS McCULLOCH FAIRBAIRN, a subject of the King of Great Britain, and a resident of Tlahualilo, Durango, Mexico, and ALBERT SAMUEL VALDESPINO and ROBERT McCART Jr., both citizens of the United States, and residents of El Paso, in the county of El Paso and State of Texas, have invented new and Improved Putting Greens and Similar Playing Surfaces, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

The present invention relates to new and useful improvements in methods of constructing the surfaces of playing fields, and while the present method pertains to playing fields generally, it is particularly adapted for use in connection with the surface of "putting greens" for golf courses.

In the construction of "putting greens" grass is commonly employed but there are sections where owing to the arid condition of the land vegetation will not grow. In such localities it has heretofore been common in the construction of golf courses, to build the surface known as the "putting green" from sand, clay, oil sand, and other similar materials. These materials, however, have disadvantages, such as each player cleaning up or smoothing out the surface of the "green" after he has finished playing thereon so that the "green" will be in playing condition after each succeeding player. This necessarily greatly increases the time each player spends on the "putting green" and as a consequence reduces the speed of play and likewise the number of persons which can be accommodated on a course. Further, in wet weather "putting greens" of this nature become muddy and are rendered unplayable. Still further, in dry weather "putting greens" of this type are undesirable for the reason that they bake and become hard and dusty. Furthermore, the surface of "putting greens" constructed in the aforementioned manner varies from time to time, and the player is therefore more or less at a loss to determine the proper amount of force to apply to a ball in making a stroke.

It is one of the objects of the present invention to provide a surface for "putting greens" especially adapted for use on arid land, which surface will be as near as possible in appearance and effect as the densely growing closely-cropped grass which makes the ideal "putting green" surface.

It is a further object of the invention to use material in which a certain amount of surface friction may be had rendering the surface action of the ball similar, if not identical, with the surface action of the closely-cropped grass of an ideal "putting green."

It is a further object of the invention to use a material which in itself is more or less resistant to moisture, thus eliminating the muddy surfaces aforementioned in wet earth.

It is a further object of the invention to construct the "green" so that the initial cost thereof is materially reduced over the cost of building a grass "green."

It is a further object of the invention to use a material which may be readily combined with a binder when necessary.

It is a further object of the invention to use a material which will withstand heavy play without disturbing or affecting the playing surface thereof.

It is a still further object of the invention to use a material which if desired may be dyed to simulate or imitate a grass "putting green."

With the above and other objects in view, reference is had to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a sectional view in elevation of a "putting green" constructed in accordance with the present invention, said figure showing the first step in making the "green."

Fig. 2 is a similar view of the "green" in its finished state.

Fig. 3 is a detail sectional view of a slightly modified form of the invention.

Referring more particularly to the drawings, the reference character 5 designates the foundation of the "green", which foundation may be of any nature, such, for example as loam, sand, clay, or any other similar earthy substitute.

The reference character 6 designates the "green" surface, and said surface is rolled into the foundation 5 in a manner to be hereinafter more specifically described.

In carrying out the invention the base which may consist as heretofore stated of any earthy substance, is prepared by leveling or undulating the surface thereof dependent upon the nature of surface which it is desired to obtain in the finished "putting

green." After this has been accomplished, the surface is covered with a suitable flocculent mass, and said flocculent mass is compacted by rolling or by any other suitable method for placing said flocculent mass under compression. While any mass of a flocculent nature may be employed in this connection, it has been found that a most desirable surface can be had by the use of ground cotton seed hulls in which the hull portions still retain a certain amount of cotton fiber adhering thereto.

In the cotton industry the seed is extracted from the boll by a ginning process, the seed being a by-product capable of use in many different connections. The hull, however, has to be removed from the seed and until said hull is delinted it contains a portion still adhering thereto. By the use of this hull with a portion of the fiber attached, the construction of golf "putting greens" is materially reduced in cost, and, at the same time, this cotton seed hull with the cotton adhering thereto if ground, will form when placed under compression, a flocculent mass capable of withstanding moisture and variations in temperature, and will produce a fibrous body providing a surface friction to a degree which renders the material very suitable for surfaces of "putting greens" of golf courses. Owing to the presence of the cotton which adheres to the small portions of the cotton seed hull, the fibrous mass or body is capable of absorbing liquids and consequently the same may be dyed in simulation of grass, thus giving a more natural appearance to the "putting green."

In the construction of the "green" the flocculent material is laid upon the base and in the rolling to compress the flocculent material into a flocculent mass, the same is also combined with a material constituting the base if such material be softened or loosened in its preparation. In some cases it may be desirable to use in connection with the flocculent material, a binder, such as oil, tar, or other suitable binding agent, and such binding agent serves to form an integral or homogeneous mass, and, at the same time, serves to prevent the absorption of too much moisture if the "putting green" be subjected to the action of the elements over an extended wet period. This form of the invention is illustrated in Fig. 3.

A "putting green" constructed in accordance with the foregoing method will withstand heavy play and will promote the speed of play since the surface is not disturbed in playing thereon, and, consequently, does not have to be restored as is the case with sand "greens." Furthermore, such a surface has the advantage over grass "greens" in that it does not need constant cutting, wetting, and other operations which are necessary to maintain a grass "green" in first-class playing condition.

From the foregoing it is apparent that the present invention provides a new and improved method for constructing golf courses and that the method if conducted in the foregoing manner provides a "putting green" of an artificial nature which has a realistic effect with all the advantages and characteristics of a natural growing grass "green."

We claim:

1. A surfacing material for putting greens, comprising comminuted flocculent material and a viscous substance binding the flocculent material into a homogeneous mass.

2. A surfacing material for putting greens, comprising comminuted vegetable matter of a flocculent nature and a viscous substance binding the vegetable matter into a homogeneous mass.

3. A surfacing material for golf putting greens consisting of crushed cotton seed hulls with fibers thereon, and a viscous substance binding the cotton seed hulls into a homogeneous mass.

4. A putting green, comprising comminuted flocculent vegetable material compressed into a homogeneous mass around a trap.

5. A putting green, comprising comminuted flocculent vegetable material and a binding substance, compressed into a homogeneous mass around a trap.

6. A putting green, comprising crushed cotton seed hulls with fibers thereon compressed into a homogeneous mass around a trap.

7. A putting green, comprising crushed cotton seed hulls with fibers thereon, and a binding substance, compressed into a homogeneous mass around a trap.

8. A putting green comprising comminuted cotton seed hulls with fibers thereon, compressed into a homogeneous mass around a trap, and a green coloring matter applied to the mass, whereby an artificial green is produced having a realistic effect and possessing the advantages and characteristics of a natural grass covered green.

9. A putting green comprising cotton seed hulls with fibers thereon, and a binding substance, the whole compressed into a homogeneous mass around a trap and having a coloring substance applied thereto to cause it to simulate grass.

THOMAS McCULLOCH FAIRBAIRN.
ALBERT SAMUEL VALDESPINO.
ROBERT McCART, Jr.