QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

All questions sent to the Green Section will be answered in a letter to the writer as promptly as possible. The more interesting of these questions, with concise answers, will appear in this column each month. If your experience leads you to disagree with any answer given in this column, it is your privilege and duty to write to the Green Section.

While most of the answers are of general application, please bear in mind that each recommendation is intended specifically for the locality designated at the end of the question.

1. Exterminating dandelions.—Will you kindly advise us what is the best way to handle the dandelion problem? (Wisconsin.)

ANSWER.—Perhaps the best method of handling dandelions on putting greens is to impregnate the crown of the plant with sulfuric acid. This is done with an ice pick. Dip the point of the pick in the acid and stick it into the crown of the plant. This kills the plant, and if done carefully will do no injury to the grass. The acid should be carried in a small, flat-bottom bottle, securely held in its place in a wooden box. If the bottle is tipped over, any acid that is spilt will kill the grass it touches; it will also eat through clothing or take the skin off the hands of the workmen if great care is not used.

2. Tees; architecture of and grasses for.—Will you kindly advise us what grass seed is preferable for tees? Many of our tees are elevated, and it would seem that a different kind of grass would be desirable for an elevated tee than for one built right on the ground. (New Jersey.)

ANSWER.—The best tees are those that are on the ground level and are relatively large in area. On the ground level turf is much more easily maintained than on a raised platform; besides, if the area is large the tee plates can then be moved frequently, every day if desired, and thus injury to the turf in spots will be prevented. Elevated tees are never warranted except for securing visibility; and even in that case they should be pretty large and an attempt made to construct them of such a form that they fit in with the landscape. Square tees are an eyesore on any golf course. In your latitude bluegrass is the best basis for a tee. More or less white clover will of course invade it, and we consider it desirable to have some bent mixed with the bluegrass. If you already have bluegrass tees you can get the bent in the tees by seeding and topdressing them in early fall, as bent is fairly aggressive when sown on other grasses. On elevated tees it is more difficult to maintain turf, as the fluctuations in the moisture conditions of the soil are much greater than on the ground level. Of course, the larger the tee the better are the conditions for growing turf on elevated ground, but it is difficult to maintain turf on small elevated tees.

3. Tobacco dust and charcoal for ridding turf of ants and worms.—It has been represented to us that tobacco dust used as a topdressing will rid a putting green of ants, also that pulverized charcoal if used in the same way about once a year will rid a green of worms. Do you know of any detailed experiments that have been made along these lines? (Indiana.)

ANSWER.—We have conducted experiments with tobacco dust and charcoal but have never noticed any particular benefit from their use in the way of ridding turf of ants or worms.

4. Controlling chickweed.—I am sending you a sample of a weed which seems to be taking our greens. It spreads very fast. Some of the greens have as high as 200 patches of this weed from 1½ inch to 1 foot in diameter. What is the weed and how shall we control it? (Nebraska.)

ANSWER.—Your weed is the common chickweed. The best way to get rid of it is to burn it with ammonium sulfate or ammonium phosphate. Have a man take a bag of the chemical and go over the greens and sprinkle a small quantity on each patch, letting it stand for one day, and then follow this with a thorough watering to wash the chemical down into the soil. Some of the grass will be burned by this treatment, but the damage to the grass will be only temporary. These chemicals, aside from their fertilizing value, will with continued use as a fertilizer get the soil into a condition so acid that the chickweed will no longer invade the greens, while the growth of the grass will be improved.

5. Weeds in bent greens; necessity for their prompt removal.—We have five bent greens coming along nicely but they have a great many weeds from the manure we used in building them. We have been weeding these out, but are wondering whether there would be any danger in our letting them go, expecting that cutting and the growing bent will crowd them out. (Ohio.)

ANSWER.—We would advise you by all means to keep your greens thoroughly weeded. The growing bent will not crowd all of them out. Cutting will prevent a few kinds of weeds from producing seed, but even in the presence of such weeds the bent can not make its best growth. There is great danger of the weeds going to seed at any time and causing endless trouble.

6. Use of salt for killing weeds in bunkers.—Could you give me any information with regard to killing weeds in bunkers? We have a power sprayer. (Oregon.)

ANSWER.—Probably the most convenient and effective preparation for killing most kinds of weeds is common salt. If applied dry, 30 to 50 pounds per 1,000 square feet should be used. If applied in solution, make the solution as strong as possible, using about 3½ pounds to a gallon of water, and apply with a sprinkler or sprayer at the rate of 6 to 9 gallons per 1,000 square feet.

7. Possible injurious after-effects from use of corrosive sublimate as a worm exterminator.—Kindly give me your opinion on corrosive sublimate for the eradication of worms in putting greens, both as to its efficiency as an exterminator and its effects, if any, upon the turf. I have heard that this chemical is injurious to turf. (Michigan.)

ANSWER.—In our experience corrosive sublimate is the best of all of the worm eradicators, the best from the standpoint of getting the largest number of worms and also because of its cheapness. It does not injure the turf unless used in excessive quantities, and there are no deleterious after-effects.