

of the other materials that are so useful in greenkeeping, including such things as water, lime, and fungicides. Sulphate of ammonia is still regarded as one of the best fertilizers for golf course use. The more recent observations and experiments have simply indicated that it is not the cure-all some enthusiasts once supposed it to be, and that regardless of acidity it must be properly balanced with other materials used for plant food in order to give best results in turf culture.

The "Herbae-Mira" Fraud

As early as January, 1924, the Bulletin issued a warning concerning the nefarious scheme of one Allan Ward Miller to defraud prospective purchasers of grass seed. Advertising leaflets, clever sales talk, and trays or samples of luxuriantly growing grass were used to entice greenkeepers, large property owners, and others to purchase a low grade seed at \$2 a pound. Miller used the name "Herbae-Prati" for his seed mixture after originally using such names as "turfing fescue" and "*Festuca elatior*," but these failed to catch the public eye and the name was changed to "Herbae-Prati." Most of this mixture was composed of common meadow fescue worth only about 10 cents a pound.

The Department of Agriculture and the Post Office Department made it so uncomfortable for Miller that he ceased operations for a while, later renewing his fraudulent activities and advertising the seed under the name "Herbae-Mira."

Miller was denied the use of the mails and fraudulent charges were filed against him. He was indicted several times during the past six years but avoided being brought to trial by creating complications in addresses and by changing the mixture of "Herbae-Mira." Miller operated through such agencies as "Forest Lawn Improvement Company" of Chicago; "Zenith Lawn Improvement Company of Kansas City; "Wilshire Lawn Improvement Company" of Dallas; and requested cash with orders. In some instances no office was maintained in the cities as advertised, and mail was forwarded to another destination from which point Miller directed his sales.

In February, 1930, Miller was arrested in Price, Utah, on a charge of petty larceny in connection with alleged misrepresentation of "Herbae-Mira" seed. He was fined \$275, given a suspended jail sentence of six months, and ordered to repay \$65 to the parties he defrauded. Again, in January, 1931, Miller was arrested, tried, and sentenced in the Circuit Court of Peoria County, Ill., to serve from one to ten years in the State Penitentiary at Joliet, Ill. He was charged with operating a confidence game and obtaining money under false pretenses.

Most value is obtained from manure when it is used in the compost pile. An excellent compost consists of one-fifth manure and four-fifths sandy-loam topsoil.

The ideal texture of soil or compost is such that after being compressed in the hand it will retain the form to which it is compressed but will fall readily apart when touched.