

Various ant poisons are available on the market under trade names. In many of these proprietary mixtures the basic poison is thallium sulphate. This chemical is extremely toxic to grass and in general should be avoided on golf courses until more information is available as to its possibilities for harm. In tests at the Arlington turf garden extremely small quantities of thallium sulphate sterilized soil so effectively that grass would not grow upon it for at least a year. Concentration of this poison by the ants in their nests may lead to serious turf injuries. Thallium sulphate baits, however, can be used with safety around the clubhouse or other buildings of golf courses.

Some ant poisons contain borax, which also is likely to cause injury to turf and therefore should be avoided in excess on putting greens.

Several simple baits which have been found to be effective are listed below. The sirup baits may be used most effectively by dipping pieces of sponge, absorbent cotton or cloth into the sirup and then placing them in containers such as metal salvo boxes or heavily paraffined pasteboard containers. Small openings are made in the containers so that the ants may have easy access to the sirup. The containers may be placed on the green in the evening and lifted in the morning.

The following poisoned sirups have been found effective:

Formula A: Dissolve 4 ounces of sugar in a quart of hot water. Then add $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce tartar emetic.

Formula B: Dissolve 1 pound of sugar in 1 quart of hot water. Add 125 grains of sodium arsenate, boil and strain.

Formula C: (Recommended only for the control of the Argentine ant, which occurs only in some of the Southern States and in certain parts of California)

Add 9 pounds of granulated sugar, 6 grams (approximately 30 grams equal 1 ounce) of tartaric acid (crystallized), and 8.4 grams of benzoate of soda to 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ quarts of water.

Boil the mixture slowly for 30 minutes, then allow it to cool.

Dissolve 15 grams of sodium arsenite (C.P.) in $\frac{1}{2}$ pint of hot water and allow it to cool. Add this poison solution to the sirup and stir well.

Then add 1- $\frac{1}{4}$ pounds of strained honey and mix thoroughly.

Another method for using the poisons listed above is to mix the sugar and chemicals dry with an equal volume of bran or corn meal. Add enough weak honey solution (honey in water) to make a crumbly mixture which can be scattered about the green.

Another dry mixture that is usually effective is:

Mix 1 ounce Paris green with 1 pound brown sugar.

Sprinkle the crumbs very lightly around the ant hills.

The poisons may also be mixed with lard to make a paste-like bait which attracts the species that feed on fatty materials. It must be remembered to keep the poison sufficiently diluted so that it may be carried to the nests.