

Seasonal Reminders

Remove Excess Stolons

When creeping bent is growing vigorously during the spring months, an excess of stolons is produced on the surface, particularly in the case of certain undesirable strains. Unless the excess growth is removed or covered with top-dressing, the turf will develop an objectionable grain which will cause many complaints from players during the summer.

The best way to remove this excess growth is by raking or severe brushing, followed by close mowing. Such severe raking or brushing should be done not later than the end of May, while the grass is still growing vigorously and therefore is able to cover up scars quickly. Greens that have a tendency to produce objectionable grain should be given light brushings frequently throughout the summer. However, severe treatments should not be attempted during mid-summer.

Dollarspot

Dollarspot usually first appears during May in most bent-growing districts. Often the first attacks are neglected and make bad scars before fungicides are applied. The first attack of dollarspot should be the signal for applying a heavy dose of mercury fungicide. Even though the first attack may be slight, it is wise to use a heavy treatment of fungicide. If turf is protected by a generous dose of mercury in May, the succeeding attacks of dollarspot and brownpatch are less likely to cause serious damage before additional treatments can be applied. The most economical and lasting of the mercury fungicides used to control dollarspot is calomel. The May treatment with calomel should be at the rate of three ounces to 1,000 square feet.

Excessive Watering

On most courses the watering of turf is begun in late April or May. Therefore, this is a good time to warn clubs that much serious damage to turf on putting greens during the summer is directly or indirectly attributable to excessive watering. If putting greens are kept soaked during May and early June, a shallow root system, which results from this practice, is almost certain to give the greenkeeper plenty of trouble during hot, sultry periods throughout the summer.

Crabgrass

Crabgrass usually starts its season in April or May. This pest is encouraged by a liberal supply of water and fertilizers if they are supplied between now and August. Therefore, to keep

crabgrass from smothering out permanent grasses, it is advisable to use fertilizers and water as sparingly as practicable during the next three months on areas where this weed is prevalent.

Brownpatch

During the latter part of May or early June brownpatch usually begins to appear. Whether or not it shows up in May, most greenkeepers can feel sure they will see it at least in June. Therefore, it is well to have a supply of fungicides on hand to use when this disease appears. In purchasing fungicides it is well to remember that the effectiveness of the group of mercury fungicides is primarily dependent on the amount of mercury each contains. The more soluble ones are more quickly effective and therefore more desirable for the control of brownpatch. For this purpose, corrosive sublimate is the most effective and economical of the large number of fungicides that have been tested by the Green Section.

To prevent burning by any of the mercury fungicides during periods of unusually hot, sultry weather, it is well to reduce the dosage greatly. In the early-season treatments the dosage with corrosive sublimate (bichloride of mercury) may be as heavy as 3 ounces to 1,000 square feet, but in days of unusual heat and excessive moisture it is well to reduce the rate to 1 ounce and in some cases as low as one-half ounce of corrosive sublimate to 1,000 feet. Other fungicides should be reduced accordingly wherever they show a sufficient supply of mercury to permit of such reduction. Upon inquiry the Green Section will be glad to advise member clubs as to the relative effectiveness of the various brownpatch fungicides on the market.

Turf Nurseries

Where a golf course is not equipped with an adequate turf nursery to provide sod for patching purposes, it is well to remember that there is no time like the present for breaking a piece of land and cultivating it during the summer months to have it ready for starting a nursery in early September. Turf nurseries may be considered a form of turf insurance. If something happens to a patch of grass in a putting green, it is very convenient to have readily available a piece of sod which has been maintained like the putting greens and which can be lifted and placed in the injured patch.

White Grubs

In May and June the adult beetle (May beetle or June bug) of the common white grub is

active and laying eggs for the next brood of white grubs. These well-known beetles spend the night in trees, where they feed on the young foliage. The females fly down to the turf particularly in the early-morning hours just before daylight, immediately burrow into the soil and deposit eggs. In a comparatively short time these eggs hatch and the young grubs start feeding on the grass roots, and become most destructive the following year. If they are sufficiently abundant, they greatly weaken or even kill the turf grasses.

These beetles seem to prefer the white or burr oak foliage and therefore are most abundant in groves of these trees. They are also found in such trees as hickory, poplar, elm, willow, locust, ash and walnut. The females ordinarily

do not fly far from the trees they inhabit. Therefore, the area of greatest grub infestation is invariably in the immediate vicinity of trees which have been heavily populated by beetles.

At this season of the year it is well to have members of the greenkeeping staff on the lookout for these beetles. The beetles fly to the trees about dusk and, if numerous, with the aid of a flashlight they may be seen flying around the trees during the early evening. Wherever they are observed in large numbers, it is well to anticipate grub injury within the next few months. Important turf in such infested areas may be treated with arsenate of lead at the rate of 5 pounds to 1,000 square feet during the summer to poison the young grubs before they do serious damage to the turf.

Questions and Answers

While most of the answers are of general application, it should be remembered that each recommendation is intended specifically for the locality designated at the end of the question.

Fairway Mowing Height

Q.—Shall we set our mowers as close as one inch for cutting fairways and lawns? (Ohio.)

A.—In general we find that bluegrass and fescue on fairways have been cut too close. Our recommendation is that mowers be set as high as the golfers will permit. The higher the fairway grass is cut, the better it will withstand adverse conditions. There naturally is a limit to the height that can be tolerated on fairways. Since this height is below that which is best from the standpoint of the grass, we make no specific recommendation as to height but simply urge that the mowers be raised as far as the players will allow, realizing that this will be decidedly different on various golf courses. Our experience has been that as the mowers are gradually raised, the players will tolerate longer grass and will actually find that the playing conditions will be greatly improved even though the roll of the ball will be less.

Old and New Stolons

Q.—Are stolons from a creeping bent nursery two years old as satisfactory as those from a new nursery? (Delaware.)

A.—Our experience has been that stolons from old nursery rows are somewhat slower in becoming established than stolons from new nursery rows. When once established, however, there is no apparent difference between the turf produced from stolons from old and new rows, provided there has been no heavy growth of seedling bent.

Home-Mixed Fertilizers as Compared with Commercial Fertilizers

Q.—What is your opinion as to the advisability of our mixing our own fertilizers? We are thinking of using a 6-12-4 fertilizer this season and are anxious to reduce its cost as much as possible. We are told by dealers that our own mixing will not be satisfactory, since prepared fertilizers sold by dealers contain many chemicals which grasses need which cannot satisfactorily be supplied when one attempts to make his own mixtures. (New York.)

A.—Apart from nitrogen, phosphorus, potash and calcium, plants use only minute quantities of other elements which commercial fertilizers contain. Except in special cases, soils throughout the northern humid area contain plenty of these rare elements, and hence they need not be considered in fertilizer practice in your part of the country. We have used a 6-12-4 fertilizer in our demonstration gardens and found it did very well for general fertilizing of both fairway and putting green turf.

Control of Pearlwort in Putting Greens

Q.—We are seeking information on the extermination of pearlwort in our putting greens. We should like to know what chemicals to use to kill this weed and the best method of applying them. (Oregon.)

A.—Pearlwort is common on courses with poorly drained greens. However, it is sometimes found growing under a wide variety of conditions and may occasionally prove trouble-