

Experience with Maleic Hydrazide

By JIMMY DUDLEY, Athens, Ga.; Member USGA Green Section Committee

Maleic hydrazide (MH-30) has shown much promise as a growth retardant. It effectively reduces the competition offered by bermudagrass when the turf is sprayed one week before overseeding with cool season grasses. Reduction of the *Poa annua* population has been noticed in association with certain seeding dates.

Procedures followed at the Athens Country Club:

1. Aerate and vertical mow 3 to 4 weeks before you plan to overseed.

2. Allow the grass to recover to normal putting condition and spray with 1/2 to 3/4 ounce actual material per 1000 square feet in a minimum of 2 gallons of water per 1000 square feet. It would be best to spray in the morning while it is still cool. The following morning, the amount of clippings will be reduced greatly and about the third morning, you should receive very little, if any, clippings.

3. Drench the greens with fungicide.

4. Overseed the greens and work the seed thoroughly into the bermudagrass turf.

5. Topdress lightly.

6. Continue with normal practice for getting your overseeding established, such as keeping the seed moistened so sprouting takes place faster. This may call for 4 to 5 syringings and weekly use of fungicides to prevent loss of seedlings from damping off diseases. Also, the use of phosphate and potash before overseeding will aid the small seedlings.

Toxicity has been experienced if the overseeding follows the spraying date too closely. The Athens Country Club has always practiced overseeding a week after spraying and has not experienced a loss of seedlings. It would be advisable that anyone planning to use this method try a small area or

one or two greens a year before spraying all greens.

The greens will become fast after spraying, but as soon as the overseeded grasses begin to grow the putting surface becomes slower. The bermuda is not very active for 3 to 4 weeks, which gives sufficient time for the cool season grasses to become established. Even distribution of the chemical is very necessary, and if you do not have this a portion of the bermuda will grow and could crowd out the overseeding. Overdoses may cause loss of grass.

This past year, the winter greens were the best the Athens Country Club has had. The question has been raised whether MH-30 was a factor in our winterkill. The following facts are established for consideration:

1. Winterkill was general throughout the south as observed by Green Section personnel, regardless of the use of MH-30.

2. Our winterkill was serious on only 4 greens. All of these have less than 4,000 square feet. Traffic was the heaviest for winter play on record.

3. No loss was observed on collars and fringes which were sprayed at the same rate as the putting surface. It is felt this was influenced by height of cut and traffic.

The plans are to use MH-30 before overseeding on September 25, 1963.

CHEESMAN JOINS STAFF

Jerry H. Cheesman will join the USGA Green Section staff at College Station, Texas, on October 1. Mr. Cheesman holds a B.S. Degree from Colorado State University and is completing his M.S. studies at Iowa State University. He has been the recipient of scholarships provided by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.