

made through the turf permit topdressing material to be worked down into contact with the underlying soil. These closely spaced channels offset any tendency of the buried thatch layer to impede the movement of water.

It has been noted that soil or compost brought into intimate contact with organic matter accumulations hastens the decay of that material. This topsoil or compost usually contains the nutrients which would be necessary for the growth of microorganisms. Nitrogen may be especially important in bringing the carbon-

nitrogen ratio into a favorable balance.

Cultivation alone may be of considerable value in reducing surface accumulations. It creates channels favorable to water penetration and it deposits soil on the surface which filters back down through the turf. This soil imparts some of the benefits of topdressing.

As is the case with most troubles, the prevention is far easier than is the cure. Regular programs of raking, vertical mowing, cultivation and topdressing will almost guarantee freedom from mat, thatch, and many of the ills to which these conditions contribute.

## Care of Sprayers\*

The sprayer should be cleaned thoroughly after each spraying operation since many herbicides are corrosive, causing scale to form, in addition to damaging parts of the pump, pressure regulator and nozzles.

When 2,4-D esters or oil soluble materials have been used:

1. Rinse the sprayer system with kerosene.

2. Put in one or two pounds of washing soda to 30 gallons of water or one quart of household ammonia per 30 gallons of water.

3. Allow this to remain in the sprayer for several minutes. Then start the sprayer and circulate it through the system.

4. Drain the sprayer.

5. Rinse the sprayer again with water and drain.

When 2,4-D amines or other water soluble salts have been used:

1. Rinse the sprayer system with either one or two pounds of washing

soda or one quart of household ammonia in 30 gallons of water. Allow the solution to stand in the sprayer for several minutes; start the pump and circulate it through the system. Then drain the sprayer.

2. Rinse the sprayer system with six to eight ounces of liquid detergent in 30 gallons of water and drain.

3. Rinse the sprayer system with water and drain.

To prevent rust or corrosion, flush the sprayer system by pumping through it a solution of automobile radiator rust inhibitor in water ( $\frac{1}{2}$  cup per gallon of water) and drain. Kerosene or fuel oil will not prevent rust or corrosion.

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