USGA GREEN SECTION RECORD
40 East 38th Street, New York, N. Y. 10016

BULK RATE
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 280
Rutherford, N. J.

TURF TWISTERS

MOWING BERMUDAGRASS

Question: I am cutting my U-3 bermuda nursery at the height of one inch. I have been told this may form a thatch and that I should cut it down to 3/4 or 1/2 inch. Is this correct? (MISSOURI)

Answer: You need not be too much concerned about the mowing height on your nursery, but when you begin to mow your fairway cut it just as close as possible because bermudagrass does have a tendency to form a mat.

POND WATER AND TURF

Question: We are pumping our irrigation water from ponds that have been treated for aquatic weeds. The question arises as to whether or not this water, once we have sprayed it with sodium arsenite, would kill the grass on the greens and fairways? (TEXAS)

Answer: Two to four parts per million of sodium arsenite was indicated as the rate used for pond moss control. It is doubtful if this concentration of sodium arsenite would have any effect on the turfgrass. Ordinarily, when sodium arsenite is used as a herbicide we use it at the rate of approximately one pound per acre in about 200 gallons of water. This is approximately one part to 1,600. At the concentration you have suggested it would take a lot of water to do any damage on the grass.

FERTILITY LEVELS

Question: In a recent soil fertility test of our Seaside bent greens, our fertility levels were very low, with the exception of phosphorus. The soluble salts are also low. In bringing up a higher potash level, would you recommend the use of muriate of potash? (KANSAS)

Answer: Muriate of potash probably is your most easily obtainable source of potash, and it is a very good source. Ordinarily, bentgrass should be fertilized with about nine pounds of the nutrient (K_2O equivalent) per 1,000 square feet per year. This would require approximately 15 pounds of muriate of potash per 1,000 square feet per year.

We suggest you divide this into several applications and apply the material mostly during the cooler seasons of the year. Potash leaches quite readily, so small, frequent applications are better than applying a large amount at one time.