

TURF TWISTERS

WARM WATER ON TURF

Question: We receive warm water for our irrigation system, which was used first in the cooling system of a large industry. Will this warm water have any unfavorable effects on turfgrass? (PENNSYLVANIA)

Answer: (1) No, warm water is not unfavorable for use on turf-grasses. Although cool water is better for its cooling effect upon initial impact during extreme temperatures, it evens off soon after it is applied.

Water applied to turf soon is affected by the temperature of the day—in other words, cool or warm water soon evens off to similar temperatures in the soil.

(2) *Hot* water could be injurious to turf.

K₂SO₄ vs. KCl

Question: What are the advantages of using potassium sulfate (K₂SO₄) rather than muriate of potash (KCl)?

Answer: In some areas where salinity is a problem, the sulfate of potash may contribute less to the problem. It is also true that sulfur is a plant nutrient whereas chlorine is not. In these days of high analysis fertilizers, we often find that the sulfur which formerly existed in such materials as superphosphate (single) has been eliminated in treble superphosphate. If it is likely that you may suffer from a deficiency of sulfur, the sulfate of potash may help.

There is one other factor. Much muriate of potash has small impurities which may be slowly soluble or insoluble. Sulfate of potash is usually more completely soluble and lends itself better to spray application.

MOWING MERION

Question: We understand that Merion bluegrass can be mowed closer than common Kentucky bluegrass. Why? (ILLINOIS)

Answer: It is true that Merion can be cut a little closer than can common bluegrass. Merion is a shorter growing plant with relatively short internodes and leaves. It also tends to tiller more than does common bluegrass.