

Killing Weeds in Tennis Courts

L. W. KEPHART

The best time to insure against weed troubles on a tennis court is when the court is being built. In the case of a clay court, the surface 2 or 3 inches of soil should be of clay, taken from a depth of at least 1 foot below the surface of the ground. If surface soil is used it is almost certain to contain the seeds of weeds and grasses which will cause trouble for several years.

If the weeds appear in a tennis court they can be kept down very easily and cheaply by means of sodium arsenite solution. This can be obtained in the form of specially prepared "weed killers" from any dealer in garden supplies or from one or two manufacturers who prepare this material in large quantities for use by railroads, road commissioners and farmers. Sodium arsenite solution can also be prepared at home by use of the formula given below. The home-made solution costs about one-half as much as the proprietary weed killers; but unless the area to be treated is quite extensive and one is accustomed to handling chemicals, it is better to use the ready-made material.

The weed killer can be applied with an ordinary sprinkling can or with a pressure sprayer, the latter being somewhat more economical of material. The amount of solution to use depends upon the character of the vegetation and the condition of the soil. For average circumstances, where the vegetation consists of mixed grasses and weeds not over 6 inches high and where the soil is fairly moist, one gallon of concentrated weed killer should make sufficient weed killing solution to cover an area of 60 by 60 feet. Best results are secured on a cloudy, humid day when rain is not expected within 12 hours. If the soil is very dry it should be moistened a few hours before applying the poison. If the vegetation is large it should be mowed before treatment, both to save material and to permit the chemical to penetrate to the soil. It is well to wait several days after mowing and before applying the weed killer in order to allow the vegetation partially to resume growth and exhaust the roots.

If the vegetation consists merely of annual grasses and weeds, one thorough application a year will keep the ground clean. If some of the vegetation consists of perennial grasses like Bermuda grass and perennial weeds like buckhorn and plantain, two applications, one in May and another in July, are sometimes required. Other chemicals, principally ordinary salt and some form of petroleum oil, are often used for killing weeds, but they are not suitable on tennis courts because they keep the ground too wet or too oily for use.

<i>Formula for preparing sodium arsenite</i>	{	Caustic soda.....2 pounds or High-grade concen- trated lye.....3 pounds White arsenic.....4 pounds Water1 gallon
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The caustic soda should be in the granulated, not the solid form. Mix the caustic soda or lye with the white arsenic in a wooden, earthenware, or graniteware receptacle. Add the water slowly. The heat generated by the chemical reaction is usually sufficient to cause all the arsenic to dis-

solve. In case some of the arsenic remains in suspension it will be necessary to heat the solution until the arsenic disappears.

After the solution is cool add enough water to replace that lost by evaporation. This stock solution will keep for several months in an airtight receptacle. For use dilute it at the rate of 1 gallon of stock solution in 50 gallons of water.

Caution. All compounds of arsenic are deadly poisons when taken internally and the greatest care must be taken not to inhale the dust or vapor or swallow any of the material by putting the fingers to the mouth or otherwise. Areas treated with sodium arsenite should not be played upon by children or grazed by animals for several days after the treatment or until the poison has been washed into the soil by rain.

Stolon-Planting Versus Seeding for Putting-Greens

DR. MAYNARD M. METCALF, *The Orchard Laboratory, Oberlin, Ohio*

The writer believes that stolon-planting will completely oust seeding for putting-greens in regions where climate and soil favor the growth of creeping bent. Within the natural creeping bent area of this country there will be found, upon most courses, fairway patches of this grass showing diverse strains. Some will have coarse leaves and others will be of intermediate quality. Some will show vigorous growth and rapid spreading, and some will be less vigorous, spreading but slowly. Some will be dark green; some will be paler. Some will show short internodes on the stolons, some longer internodes. Study of these different strains can be given in advance and there can be selected the particular strain which in given soil and climate thrives and presents the most desirable qualities. From this particular patch, once chosen, can be gathered the runners with which to plant the greens nursery, and uniform greens of the exact quality desired may thus be secured.

By the seeding method such exactly predetermined results are not obtainable. One can't tell from the seed of the bents or of other grasses just what quality of grass will develop, for there are diverse strains of nearly all species of grasses and in any lot of seed obtainable there will generally be mixtures of different strains. Seeded greens will thus present a more or less patchy result even if seed of but one species is used, the different strains showing diverse conditions of fineness and of color. And diversity of color is a serious fault, greatly increasing the difficulty of estimating the roll in a sidling or otherwise irregular putt, the darker patches having the optical effect of shadows and fooling the player in estimating the contour of the green.

The stolon method of planting is far more exact, and plans can be made in advance with a refinement of detail not possible with the seeding method, and, after all, probably with less expense than is involved in seeding.

The Green Section will advise you as to sources of seed but does not guarantee the goods of any seedman.

Buy your seed on sample and quotation. Send in the sample, and later send a sample of the delivery.