

## Control of Crawfish

We are indebted to Mr. C. K. Anderson, President of the Ridgemoor Country Club, Norwood Park, Illinois, for the following account of the successful control of crawfish by means of wire cloth buried underneath the turf, so as to prevent the crawfish from coming up from beneath and destroying the greens. Mr. Anderson informs us that the material used was 3 by 3 mesh No. 16-gauge wire cloth galvanized after weaving. It was employed by Mr. J. E. Millikin on a golf course at Orange, Texas. In a letter to Mr. Anderson, Mr. Millikin writes as follows: "This wire cloth will be placed 16 to 18 inches under the top of our greens and below the grass roots, and will extend under the bunkers bordering the greens, laid down the entire width or breadth of the green, lapped 2 inches and wired about every three feet to hold in place. Numerous other ideas have been tried to eliminate the crawfish, such as cinders, gravel, and iron chips, but the hardware cloth is about the only thing that the writer knows of which has proved successful. The crawfish, which builds his mounds so nicely after a heavy rain, is commonly known as a 'thunder crawfish.' Some are striped on the back, others red, and they vary in length from 1 to 1¾ inches. They create a large opening beneath the surface of the ground from 6 to 8 inches in diameter, varying in size from a quart measure to as large as the ordinary straw hat. These holes retain water except in extremely dry weather; and when it rains the crawfish enlarge their water lake, creating the mounds above the surface of the ground, and which no doubt you have often seen decorating the fairways and the greens of most southern golf courses. Our selection of the size of wire to use was based on what we thought would prove the least expensive in the long run and which would consistently answer our purpose."

In connection with this it is thought desirable to call attention also to other methods of exterminating crawfish. As the pest lives only in very wet soil, the logical remedy is good soil drainage, which has been found to be effective. Carbon disulfid is also very effective. This is best applied directly into the burrows by means of a long-nozzled oil can or kerosene can with a short nozzle. The hole in the nozzle in either case should be partially closed so as to allow the liquid to drop out slowly. Five or six drops of the liquid should be allowed to enter the burrow and the hole to the burrow immediately closed by stepping on it with the heel. It must be remembered that carbon disulfid is extremely inflammable and it should be used with as great care as is gasoline. It has also been reported that the crawfish may be destroyed by dropping a piece of calcium carbide down into the tunnel. The carbide unites with the water at the bottom of the hole, making a gas, which kills the animal. A couple of tablespoonfuls of gasoline dropped into each hole, and the hole immediately covered again with earth, is also said to be efficacious.

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**Applying ammonium sulfate.**—The question is frequently asked as to what is the best way to apply ammonium sulfate. We have a method we are using that is both efficient and economical. Mix ten pounds of sulfate in a fifty-gallon barrel of water alongside the hydrant of your green. Make a T-shaped piece of pipe, connecting the straight line to the hydrant on one