

## Brown-Patch Is With Us

When we contemplate the brown-patch we say with the poet "the melancholy days have come." Surely we are in for it for a few months, and apparently all we can do about it is to be on the job and use the few means we have at hand to keep the damage down to the minimum. Bordeaux still seems to be our stand-by. At least we feel a little more comfortable with it than without it when it comes to the control of the large brown-patch. Since the Green Section has been to a considerable degree responsible for suggesting the use of Bordeaux for the treatment of large brown-patch, it feels it a duty to urge the conservative use of this fungicide. A light dusting or spraying of the greens at times when experience indicates that the disease may be expected is all that can possibly be helpful. Of course the occurrence of brown-patch can not always be successfully forecast, but an observant greenkeeper will hit it a large percentage of the time. Bordeaux must be on the leaves of the grass to be effective, but only a small quantity is required. When applied with an efficient duster,  $\frac{1}{2}$  pound to 1,000 square feet is ample. Heavy and frequent applications of Bordeaux are very likely to cause copper-poisoning of the turf, and this is much worse than brown-patch itself. So please consider this the Green Section's warning, and be sure to heed it.

There is little real evidence that Bordeaux is useful in the control of the small brown-patch—certainly there is none from the work done at Arlington—but there are two important things to do in case either the large or the small brown-patch attacks the greens. (1) Water liberally, early in the morning if you can, but water anyway. (2) Apply a light dressing of well-screened compost, not to exceed 1 cubic yard to 5,000 square feet of turf, and add to this, before applying, 5 to 7 pounds of ammonium sulfate. After applying the compost-ammonium sulfate mixture, water in thoroughly to avoid burning. The reason for this treatment is to stimulate the development of the dormant grass buds to replace the plants killed by the disease. If new leaves are not brought into evidence soon after the brown-patch kills the old ones, the stems and roots will die. Creeping bent responds more quickly to restorative treatments than do the other turf grasses that are susceptible to brown-patch. This is because it has an abundant supply of buds on its submerged stems or runners, and all these need is a little stimulating to bring them into growth.

In a nutshell, we have only the above suggestions to offer for the treatment of brown-patch. There is being much said regarding certain organic mercury compounds, but as yet the Green Section lacks evidence of their efficacy. It wishes all of them success but must withhold judgment until more data are available.

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**An Inexpensive Drainage System.**—"An interesting problem in drainage was taken care of on our No. 5 hole. On the fairway just in front of the green a portion located at the foot of a small rise was so saturated with moisture that in walking across one sank into the soggy soil to the depth of an ordinary low shoe. We dug a ditch 2 feet across and 2 feet deep along the upper edge of the fairway, which we filled with stone. The total length of the ditch was about 50 feet. Starting at the middle of this ditch, and using it as a T, we laid a 4-inch land-tile drain across the