

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

All questions sent to the Green Section will be answered in a letter to the writer as promptly as possible. The more interesting of these questions, with concise answers, will appear in this column. If your experience leads you to disagree with any answer here given it is your privilege and duty to write to the Green Section. While most of the answers are of general application, it must be borne in mind that each recommendation is intended specifically for the locality designated at the end of the question.

Overcoming the matting of creeping bent turf.—On some of our greens the creeping bent has a tendency to form loose mats. How can we correct this condition? (Nebraska)

ANSWER.—The best remedy for getting rid of matted grass is to take a sharp-toothed garden rake and give the green a thorough raking. The raking should be done both ways and the greens cut closely immediately and top-dressed at once. Often when creeping bent has a tendency to mat, the mat becomes much thicker and more spongy in the places which are low. This spongy mat in the pockets becomes so dense and springy that the top-dressing is kept from settling into these areas no matter how much the green is brushed. If the greens are thoroughly raked and a lot of the stolons are pulled out of these low areas, it is then possible for the top-dressing to settle into them and bring the surface to the proper level. A good raking followed immediately by a cutting and heavy top-dressing thoroughly worked in with a brush or mat, will produce a true surface and prevent the formation of these spongy pockets. This treatment will of course give the green an unattractive appearance for a while but should not in the least detract from its putting qualities.

Avoidance of burning in use of hydrated lime on putting greens.—In making an application of hydrated lime, corrosive sublimate, and sulphate of ammonia, mixed with dirt, using a peat spreader, our greens were burned rather severely. Applying in the same manner a mixture of corrosive sublimate and sulphate of ammonia no burning resulted. Please advise what kind of lime is safest to use on putting greens and at what rate it should be applied. (California)

ANSWER.—It is not safe to use sulphate of ammonia with lime unless the lime is applied at least a week previous to or following the application of the sulphate of ammonia. This is because the chemical reaction when lime and fertilizers containing ammonia are mixed together results in the release of ammonia gas, which burns the turf. There is however less danger from burning when ground limestone is used in place of hydrated lime. In constructing putting greens with acid soil it is recommended that ground limestone be mixed with the soil; if the soil is not markedly acid, a ton of ground limestone to the acre is sufficient. When putting greens seem to require lime to correct extreme soil acidity as quickly as possible, more satisfactory results will probably be obtained by the use of hydrated lime. It is better to use a small amount of this for the first treatment, such as 15 pounds to 1,000 square feet, and add more as necessary. The use of lime on putting greens is discussed at more length in the Bulletin for May, 1929.



Fifth hole (186 yards) Shackamaxon Country Club, Westfield, N. J.



The manner in which one single ray of light, one single precious hint, will clarify and energize the whole mental life of him who receives it, is among the most wonderful and heavenly of intellectual phenomena.

Arnold Bennett

