

Questions and Answers

Comparative efficacy of mercury compounds of certain kinds in control of brown-patch.—A new mercury compound has been offered to us for the control of brown-patch. It is said to contain 6 per cent mercury. This is claimed to be in a not completely soluble form and therefore superior to other mercury fungicides in that it does not wash out of the turf so readily and therefore is effective for a longer period. The claim is made that this preparation has resisted attacks of brown-patch for a period of 42 days. The names of 11 golf courses are given where the preparation has been successfully used. Have you any information that would indicate that such a preparation should be superior to other mercury fungicides used in the control of brown-patch? (Virginia)

ANSWER.—Having tested so many mercury compounds and found that they behave very much alike when placed on the percentage of mercury basis, we feel confident that the preparation you mention would prove to be no exception to this rule. The common success in the use of preparations for controlling brown-patch during the 1930 season, is due in great measure to the fact that the dry weather of that season made brown-patch much less of a troublesome pest, and it is entirely possible that injury from brown-patch during that season in many instances would have been no more extensive had no chemical remedies whatever been used. The fact that the preparation referred to has been known to remain effective for a period of 42 days does not constitute proof of its superiority over fungicides which have been known to be effective over shorter periods, since it is well established that the same treatment put on at two different periods in the season may vary in its lasting effect all the way from 2 days to 2 months.

Use of river sand on putting greens.—We are sending you a sample of river sand which we are using for top-dressing our putting greens; also a sample of turf from one of them. Do you think we should continue to use this sand on the putting greens? (Louisiana)

ANSWER.—We find that your river sand is alkaline in reaction and may be classed as a fine sand. By using this sand you supply considerable lime to the putting greens, which probably accounts for the fact that the soil in the piece of turf you send is also quite alkaline. We would recommend that you continue to use this sand in mixtures for top-dressing purposes since it serves a good purpose in breaking up and making more porous your local clay soil. The plug shows that the topsoil on the putting green has been considerably improved due to the mixture of sand and organic matter with your native clay as top-dressing material. Your local clay soil would be inclined to pack if used alone. We advise against the use of large quantities of pure sand for top-dressing purposes. Since the soil of your putting greens is alkaline we would suggest that you use sulphate of ammonia as a fertilizer from time to time. This should be applied at the rate of 5 pounds to 1,000 square feet in the spring and 1 or 2 pounds to 1,000 square feet in the warmer weather. It may be applied mixed with soil to insure even distribution, and watered into the turf after being applied.



Seventh hole (185 yards) Spring Mill Course of the Philadelphia Country Club, West Conshohocken, Pa.



Nothing is true forever. A man and a fact will become equally decrepit and will tumble in the same ditch, for truth is as mortal as man, and both are outlived by the tortoise and the crow.

James Stephens

