

Clubs located in the regions where unusually cold weather prevailed without snow protection should be prepared to do extensive reseeding as soon as it is evident how much of the Bermuda grass has been killed.

An early application of fertilizer will prove of much value in thickening the injured Bermuda grass where the damage has not been severe enough to require reseeding. Light discing with the discs set as straight as possible, followed by dragging with a brush-harrow or other smoothing device and then rolling, will also serve to speed recovery.

SNOWMOLD DISEASE

It is likely that the injury from snowmold on golf courses will be far more extensive this year than it has been for several years. It has occurred this year on courses much farther south than where it is commonly found. The continuous cold no doubt prevented far greater damage to turf than might have occurred had there been the customary prolonged and gradual thaws during the winter. If ground is well frozen when the first snow arrives and the snow melts little during the winter, the snowmold has almost no opportunity to develop. Therefore, courses where this condition prevailed in general have suffered little from this disease this year.

In some sections of the country snow fell before the ground was frozen and the subsequent heavy falls served to insulate the ground from the extreme cold, with the result that the temperature at the surface of the soil was sufficiently high to permit the mold to develop. This was particularly the case under heavy drifts of snow. In such instances snowmold injury has been common.

In the case of many courses covered for a long period with a heavy blanket of snow, the cold weather continued until the rapid thaw in late February. This thaw removed practically all of the snow within a period of a few days, which permitted the disease too short a time to develop any serious turf injury.

Where all the snow did not disappear promptly during this thaw, there has been far more injury since snowmold is decidedly encouraged by gradual thawing.

Seaside bent as usual has been injured by snowmold in a general way far more seriously than have been the other bent grasses grown on golf courses.

At the time this is written the full extent of the damage from snowmold cannot be determined. The disease may develop for several more weeks under favorable climatic conditions.

Treatment for Snowmold: In many instances the turf has been completely killed in patches and these areas should be patched as early in the spring as possible. If this is impractical, the dead areas should be raked or disced lightly and seeded as soon as possible.

Where the disease has occurred it would be well to treat the turf with corrosive sublimate at once to kill the mold and prevent further spread in the event of weather favorable for its development within the next few weeks. This treatment will not restore turf already injured but will insure against extension of the damage.

Since much of the turf injured by snowmold is not completely killed, it will be restored as soon as new blades of grass are produced by the plants that have survived in the affected areas. A liberal application of fertilizer containing quickly available nitrogen as soon as growth starts will hasten the recovery of turf that has been thinned out by snowmold.

The late fall treatments with fungicides as worked out by the Green Section staff a few years ago have again demonstrated their effectiveness in preventing extensive damage by snowmold. It was recently estimated by a greenkeeper in the Twin Cities district that 90% of the putting greens in that region are given the fall preventative treatments as an insurance against snowmold.

Detailed directions for the prevention of snowmold are available in the Green Section Bulletins that have been sent to United States Golf Association member clubs.

WEED CONTROL TESTS

The Green Section is conducting a series of tests with chemical weed-killers in cooperation with golf clubs throughout the country. These tests are made principally with the purpose of controlling fairway weeds. Many tests at the Arlington turf garden and elsewhere have given results that warrant more extensive tests. If any member club is particularly interested in this work and wishes to cooperate or to keep in touch with the tests being conducted in its neighborhood, we will be glad to furnish full information.

SEASONAL REMINDERS

Overhauling Equipment: On northern courses the winter is the best time of the year for overhauling and repairing equipment. Unfortunately on many courses little or no provision is made for winter work of any kind. Where this type of work has not been done already no time should be lost in attending to it.

The best time to make major repairs is when there is sufficient time to put a piece of equipment out of use long enough to do a good job. Thorough overhauling of equipment during the winter and spring months often saves much time, money and unpleasant situations caused by breakdowns during the busy playing season.

The reduced budgets of recent years have made it necessary to use much of the equipment on golf courses beyond its normal span of usefulness.

Replacing Equipment: As overhauling is being done a complete appraisal of equipment can be made. Practical limitations on repairs should be recognized and worn-out equipment should be replaced at once.