

## ALGAE

The July, 1923, issue of the USGA Green Section BULLETIN, page 200, stated: "As soon as the soil is put in condition to grow a good turf, you will have no more trouble from algae."

In October, 1925, the BULLETIN suggested 4 ounces of corrosive sublimate in 50 gallons of water to 3,000 square feet to eliminate algae, followed by topdressing.

In September, 1927, algae again came in for discussion. A bent green had brownpatch and had been treated with ammonium sulfate and compost. The dark, shiny patches soon covered the entire green. Overwatering was given as the cause. Less water and topdressing with 50 per cent sand, 25 per cent organic matter and 25 per cent loam were suggested.

In January, 1930, the BULLETIN again answered a question on algae. Again drainage was stressed, and the idea of spiking was suggested. Lime also was recommended to help the physical condition of the soil.

In 1950 the Green Section is receiving many requests for help in controlling algae on putting greens. The brief review indicates that the problem has received attention ever since the Green Section was started in 1921.

Algae is a one-celled green plant which is present in the soil everywhere. It requires an abundance of water for growth. It cannot stand competition from healthy turf. When soil is compact, drainage poor and turf thin, and when overwatering is practiced, algae becomes troublesome, particularly during the hottest part of the summer. The greenish-blackish scum smothers what little grass is there and, when dry, the crackly crust splits and curls. Where algae appears, this suggested program may give good results:

1. Dust the affected turf with hydrated lime at 2 to 3 pounds to 1,000 square feet.

2. Use less water to allow surface to dry. Lightly wash in the dew early each morning.

## COMING EVENTS

Sept. 6-7 — Turf Field Days, Rhode Island State College, Kingston, R. I. Dr. J. A. DeFrance.

\*Sept. 7-8 — Turf Conference and Field Days, Southeastern Turf Research Center, Tifton, Ga. Dr. G. W. Burton.

Sept. 11-12 — Turf Field Days, State College, Pa. Prof. H. B. Musser.

Oct. 15-17 — National Turf Field Days, Washington, D.C. USGA Green Section, Beltsville, Md. Dr. Fred V. Grau.

Oct. 25-27 — Turf Conference, Manhattan, Kans. L. E. Lambert.

Oct. 30-Nov. 3 — American Society of Agronomy Annual Meetings, Cincinnati, Ohio, L. G. Monthey, Madison, Wis.

1951

Jan. 11-12 — Maryland Turf Conference, University of Maryland, College Park, Md. Ernest N. Cory.

Feb. 12-14 — Texas Turf Conference, College Station, Texas.

Feb. 26-Mar. 1 — Turf Conference, State College, Pa. Prof. H. B. Musser.

\*These dates formerly were publicized as Sept. 14 and 15.

3. Aerate the soil deeply to try to stimulate new grass roots.

4. Apply turf fungicides by the dry method to avoid applying more water, of which there already is too much.

5. Topdress lightly with a mixture of 70 per cent coarse sand, 20 per cent loam, 10 per cent organic matter when the turf begins to recover.

When algae trouble is over in the fall, take stock of conditions and try to prevent the trouble for the years ahead by:

1. Correcting the poor drainage conditions.

2. Correcting the poor physical-soil conditions. Algae usually is worst on heavy clay soils.

3. Introducing a more vigorous, better-adapted strain of grass.

4. Planning a better-adapted watering program.

5. Examining the fertilizer program to see if a change is indicated.