

SETTING CUPS IN FROZEN TURF



J. L. Haines, golf-course superintendent at the Denver Country Club, prepares for the winter season by setting cups in more than one cup position on each green before the ground freezes. Then he sets a wooden disc on each cup, except one, and covers it with an inch of turf, flush with the putting surface. No matter how hard the ground freezes, it is always possible to change cups.

FACTS AND FANCY IN SOIL CONDITIONER CLAIMS

"Uneasiness is being felt by public-relations-conscious persons in the fertilizer trade regarding the effect of certain soil conditioner ads. They are afraid that disappointment in some of the more questionable brands of conditioners may cause the public to associate such with the fertilizer industry, since some of the conditioner ads say that the products contain plant nutrients. In reality, of course, this is a complete exaggeration.

"The best-known producers of soil conditioners, such as American Cyanamid Co. and Monsanto Chemical Co., firms whose products have been well tested and truthfully advertised, are naturally

unhappy over the situation. They are in the position of having started a small fire, only to see it grow into a conflagration, practically out of control.

"It appears that some of the unethical makers of soil conditioners are likely to be unhappy, too, since a crackdown by the Federal Trade Commission on firms producing 'misleading' advertising appears to be imminent.

"A recent survey by the New York JOURNAL OF COMMERCE with universities and other research agencies engaged in testing soil conditioners indicates that although some of the products now being marketed meet claims fully, others are relatively ineffective and 'certainly do not appear to justify the advertising claims made about them.'

"The sensational-type advertising campaigns, resembling closely the medicine-show copy of yesteryear, make claims based on only superficial testing and the copy usually makes no mention of the fact that the product's effectiveness varies greatly in different types of soil, method of use, etc.

"Research by independent groups indicates that not only do soil conditioners fail to contain 'plant nutrients' as claimed in some more flagrant cases, but that many are scarcely one-twentieth as effective as the best brands. One research group reports that some of the new brands of soil conditioners form 'soil aggregates' all right, but the sponge-like aggregates dissipate with the first rainfall, leaving the soil just where it was at the beginning . . . and the user a poorer, wiser, and probably very wrathful man.

"Our hope is that the soil conditioner situation may be straightened out as speedily as possible so that the sheep may be clearly distinguished from the goats. People in the industry who know how the public reacts have reason to be uneasy. They know that an entire industry can get a black eye over the misrepresentations of just a few, and legitimate manufacturers naturally don't want this to happen."

From AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS, Vol. 7, No. 8, August, 1952, "The Editor Comments."

USGA MEDALS TO GCSA WINNERS

Golf Course Superintendents hail a new champion, John Zoller, of Berwick Golf Club, Columbus, Ohio. He scored 72-71-143 to take the title at the GCSA annual tournament at the Columbus Country Club, in September. The runner-up was Paul Schurtz, Ironton Country Club, Ironton, Ohio, with 71-73-144. Both will receive USGA medals.

Medals were won in the Senior Division by John McGunigal, winner, superintendent at the Henry Stambaugh Country Club, Akron, Ohio, and Rocky Schorr, runner-up, Bluefield Country Club, Bluefield, W. Va.

The USGA medals are presented by the USGA Green Section to encourage superintendents to play golf and to see their courses as the members see them.

WILD WHITE CLOVER

Advertisements proclaim that wild white clover will control crabgrass and will produce a fine lawn. The USGA Green Section has no data, nor do we know of any, that will support such claims.

INFORMATION, IF YOU PLEASE

The USGA Green Section is compiling a list of suppliers of improved turf grasses for which no seed is available. This refers primarily to:

Creeping bent such as C-1, C-7, C-19, and others

Meyer (Z-52) zoysia

Zoysia matrella

U-3 bermudagrass

Tifton 57

Tifton 127.

JOURNAL readers who know of local sources of supply of one or more of these grasses are cordially invited to send this information to:

UNITED STATES GOLF ASSOCIATION
GREEN SECTION

PLANT INDUSTRY STATION
Beltsville, Md.

This information will be compiled to answer many inquiries that reach this office.

CORRECTION

In the September JOURNAL we named Bitter blue St. Augustine as a "better turf grass" because of its resistance to chinch bug. O. S. Baker, a Green Section Service Subscriber, writes to inform us that Bitter blue seems to have lost its reported resistance and that thousands of lawns of that grass were ruined by the bug in 1952. He says that the zoysia-grasses continue to resist the chinch bug. Do other JOURNAL readers have similar observations?