

## Result of Spring Rains



This is what the spring rains did to the eleventh fairway of Woolfert's Roost Country Club, Albany, N. Y. A heavy three-inch rainfall overburdened a storm sewerage line causing it to break. Here, Mr. Jack Gormley, Superintendent, surveys the damage. In some areas of the fairway the soil deposit resulting from the break measured approximately two feet in depth.

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**QUESTION:** I do not really understand the value of the soluble salts tests. And what's the difference between sodium and calcium salts in the soil?

**ANSWER:** Soluble salts, in the case of soils under turf, frequently give a good indication of whether or not drainage is adequate and whether or not the water being used is suitable for turf irrigation use. Soluble salts generally are sodium and potassium salts and they may be either chlorides, sulfates or carbonates. Carbonates and chlorides generally are undesirable, whereas sulfates generally are much less harmful. Sodium salts generally are soluble salts, whereas calcium salts may be much less soluble. Calcium salts tend to flocculate the soil and improve drainage, whereas sodium salts have a tendency to disperse the soil particles and to make the soils tighter and more poorly drained.

**QUESTION:** A great many "wetting agents" are being advertised in trade magazines. Do they have a place on the golf course?

### COMING EVENTS

1956

**August 7:**

Kurgers Turf Field Day  
Rutgers University  
New Brunswick, N. J.

**August 15-16:**

Rhode Island Field Days  
University of Rhode Island  
Kingston, R. I.

**September 17-18:**

Mid-West Regional Turf Foundation Field Days  
Purdue University  
Lafayette, Ind.

**ANSWER:** Wetting agents have been used for many years in connection with the application of spray materials. The modern name for a wetting agent is "surfactant," a contraction of the words "surface acting agent." They have sometimes been called "spreaders." Fish-oil soap was one of the earliest, and smelliest, components of spray mixtures and it was used primarily as a "spreader" or wetting agent. A wet-

## Divot Hole Repair



Paul Hahn Photo

*This Japanese girl-caddy illustrates the accepted method of filling a divot hole in that country. Each caddy carries a little bag, slung from the shoulder, containing a mixture of soil, seed and fertilizer. When a golfer creates a divot, the caddy immediately repairs the damage, insuring fine turf for golfing.*

ting agent lowers surface tension and spray particles flatten out instead of sitting on plant leaves in bead-like droplets. This allows more thorough coverage and thereby produces greater effectiveness of herbicides, fungicides, insecticides and fertilizers used as foliar sprays.

Wetting agents may perform another function for turf growers and this possibility has been long over-looked. Localized dry spots may be wetted much more easily if they are first irrigated with a solution of water and wetting agent. Even dry peat may be wetted quite easily when one of these materials is added to the water. Thatched turf areas behave in a manner similar to peat in that they are difficult to wet and therefore allow water to run off instead of infiltrating the soil. Fairy rings are partially caused by the drying out of the soil in which the mycelium of the causal fungus is growing. Wetting agents can help in alleviating these conditions.

**QUESTION:** In preparing a C-1 (Arlington) and C-19 (Congressional) nursery for increase, is it best to plant separate nursery rows of each selection, or to mix them?

**ANSWER:** It is best to plant separate rows of each strain in nursery areas. The important thing to remember is that the bushel measure in planting the green is critical. The usual rate of stolonizing is 5 bushels of C-1 and 5 bushels of C-19 to each 1,000 square feet. If the balance favors the C-19 slightly it would not matter too much; however, if the balance favors C-1, the finished surface would not be as good. Therefore, to insure against imbalance of C-1, these stolons should be grown separately and measured accurately for planting.

**QUESTION:** Is it harmful to apply water to greens during the day on days when the sun is very hot?

**ANSWER:** No, water could be applied to putting green turf at any time of the day. More important than the time of day is the amount of water that is applied at any one time. During the hot summer season of 1955 it was common practice to water the greens lightly (syringe) several times each day to prevent wilt. Many superintendents water in the early morning and thereafter during the day as needed. This is a good policy as morning watering washes the dew off the grasses, thus drying the grasses faster, and nullifying the nutrient medium (dew) on which fungi can feed. The primary danger is to apply *too much water* during hot sunny days, thus scalding the turf.

**QUESTION:** Why do wild onions grow in the rough right up to the edge of the fairway and not on the fairway?

**ANSWER:** Higher rates of fertilizer and lime on fairways strengthen the permanent grasses and thus cause greater competition for the onions. More frequent fairway mowing tends to weaken the wild onion by reducing the food-manufacturing parts—the leaf surfaces. Less food means smaller bulbs for next year and a control measure is affected.