

WIRRAL WEED KILLING

Two years ago, I had to find an answer to a weedkilling problem far greater than I had previously met—eighteen greens and 120 acres of fairway

BENEFIT FROM IRRIGATION

Report of Rothamsted Experimental Station, where Wright Rain equipment is used, outlines irrigation experiments.

IRRIGATION in the drier years in Britain is of great value particularly in South Eastern England, according to the annual report of the Rothamsted Experimental Station. The report points out that in what was accepted as a wet year both early potatoes and grass benefited greatly from irrigation. Low rainfall from March to June, 1960, at a time when grass was vulnerable to lack of moisture, showed that irrigation was beneficial.

Yield Doubled

Experiments from irrigating rye grass at Woburn last year showed greatly increased yields over non-irrigated plots. Putting on a total of 3 inches in late April, May and June almost doubled the yield from 9.6 cwt. per acre to 19.8 cwt. per acre. During this period cuts of grass were taken between the second week of May to the third week of June. This represented an increase in dry matter over non-irrigated plots from 1 ton 7 cwt. to 2 tons 5 cwt. per acre.

With early potatoes 11.97 tons per acre were recorded, an increase of 2.24 tons over non-irrigated potatoes.

Commenting on the calculation of irrigation need, the report says that in general the original specification was substantial, but it was hardly to be expected that all crops had the same water requirements. The underestimation of the need for grass and potatoes was about right for beans but was above the need for sugar beet and cereals.

Lou Lowcock, Head Greenkeeper of the Royal Liverpool Golf Club relates how he cleaned out all the usual and some unusual weeds from the century-old turf of the Hoylake links.

and rough growing every kind of weed in the book.

The ordinary rosette weeds were no trouble, but the greens were badly infested with clover, yarrow, pearlwort, parsley piert and a weed that was known locally as sea-side chickweed. Previously this chickweed had only been checked by lawn sand and always came again in the Spring.

I tried all the usual selective weedkillers, M.C.P.A., 2-4 D and 2,4,5. T.

Several applications at intervals would no doubt have succeeded against the clover and pearlwort but not the chickweed and parsley piert.

Weedkiller used by Farmers.

I decided therefore to try the comparatively new C.M.P.P. and bought a gallon of "Blitzcleve", a weedkiller used by farmers for surface weeds.

Using a Drake and Fletcher knapsack sprayer fitted with three "O" jets, I mixed 14 fluid ounces of "Blitzcleve" with three gallons of water and used this quantity to a green of about 650 square yards. At an ordinary walking pace this rate of application covers the area without any difficulty and usually leaves sufficient for one width around the perimeter.

Within a week the chickweed, pearlwort and parsley piert were turning yellow, another week they were turning brown and within a month they had faded away and no scar to find any indication of where the weeds had been.

The clover and yarrow gradually went and no trace of anything was seen again that year. The chickweed duly appeared again in the Spring and again the same treatment brought the same result. No clover or yarrow appeared at all and now the sward is completely clean.