

within the plant: trace elements thus promote the health of the plant, its ability to repair damage, to survive periods of stress and still look attractive. The best way to apply trace elements is as a foliar feed, preferably a seaweed extract, since this is a natural and balanced form of application and an important time to apply is in the Autumn so that a good supply of trace elements remains within the plant until next Spring.

Reseeding Golf Greens in the Autumn

by **R. W. Palin** *Sutton Seeds Ltd.*

We are all aware that it is dangerous to put new wine into old bottles, but it is often a good thing to put new grass into old greens.

Many of our greens, while offering excellent putting surfaces at certain seasons, are far from good at other times of the year. One of the main reasons for this changing pattern is the actual composition of the sward. There is scarcely a green without some *Poa Annua* in the herbage, and this insidious plant is a most prolific seeder, producing many generations in the course of a year, even under very close mowing. It colonises rapidly, to the disadvantage of the desirable *Agrostis* and *Festuca* species.

Being of annual duration and often short-lived, we have a changing pattern of colour and texture as one generation of *Poa* succeeds another. Nature has a habit of putting *new* grass into old swards, but not necessarily of the type we require for golf, and our answer, therefore, lies in oversowing periodically with the proper grass seeds, to produce the ideal turf.

Where the existing turf is really very sparse, it is necessary to scarify severely to remove the old plant debris and create a seed-bed – seldom looked upon with favour by the members, yet essential to the future of the course. The alternative is to give sparse areas a thorough spiker/slitting, or sarel rolling, to perforate the surface, and then sow the seed and literally rub it into the surface. In either case, a top-dressing of compost at about 5-7 lb. per square yard is necessary to cover the seed. September is the ideal month for such work, bearing in mind that the seeds will take a week or so to germinate, and the seedlings will need to be well developed before the onset of winter.

It is, of course, a good idea to mix some suitable seeds with the autumnal or early spring compost, and it is surprising how many plants and colonies of desirable grasses develop as a result, to the benefit of the turf as a whole.

RENOVATION

Even the finest putting surfaces can be improved by overseeding during Autumn renovations with **Mommersteegs** Golf Green mixture, sowing rate $\frac{1}{4}$ oz to the sq yd.

This is a mixture of 'Koket' Chewings Fescue, and 'Tracenta' Browntop, both varieties being internationally accepted in the OECD Certification Scheme. Its fine leaves, say Mommersteeg, have a proven persistence under close cutting conditions, an in-bred disease resistance, and its consistent dark green summer colour are some of the outstanding features in its rising popularity with leading professional Greenkeepers.

Carters recommend an oversow rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ oz per square yard any time from mid August to late October.

Oversowing for renovation should be carried out during showery weather or at any time if the course is equipped with an irrigation system.