

MOSS ON SPORT TURFS

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(Continued from July)

The application rate for Hi-Lite Mosskiller is one ounce per square yard and the physical form has been designed so that the same setting is used on spreaders as with "Greenkeeper 2 in", "Greenkeeper 1 in" and "Combined Turf Fertiliser and Weed-killer". Mosskiller can also be applied accurately through the Cyclone Spreader.

The short-term effect of Hi-Lite Mosskiller is rapid blackening and death to the moss, but unlike conventional lawn sand, its action is much kinder to grasses. Our phytotoxicity experiments have indicated that rate for rate, we have increased the safety margin considerably.

After the use of Hi-Lite Mosskiller a very good dark green colour is achieved and our experiments and trials confirmed by usage on sports turf, show that this is sustained for some 6-8 weeks.

When used for moss control in the period late March—early April, the time most people become conscious of moss invasion, not only will the moss be cleared up, but growth produced as a result of the nitrogen component forms a good base for the summer feeding programme.

The physical advantages of Hi-Lite Mosskiller—lightweight, controlled process of manufacture—all lead to improved application characteristics, particularly through a spreader, with the result that a much nicer product to handle and much safer product to the grass has been produced.

Coupled with aeration, regular light scarifying will control fibre development and prevent the build up of a spongy water retentive surface. The secret of scarifying is little and often. This avoids the stress that the grass is put to if only two mammoth on-slaughts are made, one in spring and one in autumn.

Many chemicals have been used for moss control over the years, but the most successful has been lawn sand, that very effective combination of ferrous sulphate and ammonium sulphate in powder form. Mosses are scorched out by lawn sand, an osmotic effect brought about by these two soluble salts going into solution in the surface water, so these dry formulations work best when applied under moist conditions.

One contributory factor in the success of lawn sand is the fact that nitrogen is supplied by the ammonium sulphate.

When coupled with good management practice, the results from lawn sand are very good. There is one point to watch with lawn sand: chemically it is acid forming. This can be used to advantage if a high pH needs to be lowered, but excessive use of lawn sand under other circumstances can drastically lower pH to an unacceptable level. If this happens biological activity in the upper soil profile is affected, resulting in the build up of hard fibre.

The biggest drawback with lawn sand is its physical form; a duty powder, very dense and unpleasant to work with, leaving a nasty, metallic taste in the mouth. Many groundsmen experience difficulty in applying lawn sand both hand and with spreaders. Packing down in the hopper makes a spreader very hard to push.

The physical problems associated with lawn sand often lead to mistakes in application, particularly with hand application where there is a tendency to spot treat and this leads to over-

application. Under many conditions this can result in severe burning and the lawn may be seriously damaged.

Damage can also occur when using a spreader—usually faulty use of the on/off control and lack of co-ordination. This happens particularly at the start and finish of runs where quite large patches of damage can be produced. As lawn sand is very free running a quite considerable pile of material will run out if the shut off is not closed when the spreader is stationary.

At Levington we have worked on the problem of moss control over the years and are now able to offer the groundsman the results of our endeavours in the introduction of Hi-Lite Mosskiller. Hi-Lite Mosskiller is a lightweight granular product; yet another of our increasing family of lightweight peat-based speciality fertilisers.

NEWS

J. G. VERLAQUE'S APPOINTMENT TO PIPECRAFT

Pipcraft Limited is delighted to announce the appointment of John G. Verlaque as Sales Director. No stranger to irrigation, Mr. Verlaque represented a major international irrigation company, throughout U.K.—latterly, as Sales Manager, and also had Sales involvement in the E.E.C. countries. Born and educated in East Africa, Mr. Verlaque pursued an agricultural career, with the intention of returning to the family farm in Kenya, and he obtained both National Diplomas in Agriculture and Dairying. The political scene, however, intervened and the commercial world seemed an appropriate challenge. "Irrigation schemes, well designed and installed provide challenge and satisfaction to the designer and the end user".

August



THE INSTITUTE OF GROUNDSMANSHIP

29th annual exhibition

at Mootspur Park
on Sept. 10.11.12

INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION 74



Acclaimed by all associated with International groundsmanship as the only exhibition that gives you the opportunity of seeing and discussing improved turf culture techniques—new and synthetic playing surfaces for Sports and Leisure Centres—revolutionary machinery for turf aeration and grass cutting on cricket squares and golf courses. Automated irrigation systems, seed, fertilizers, chemical and spraying equipment. All are part of the interest packed Groundsmanship Exhibition held at the University of London Athletics Ground, Mootspur Park, New Malden, Surrey, between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. on the 10th and 11th September and 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. on 12th September. Direct trains from Waterloo to Mootspur Park Station. Road travel on A3 Portsmouth Road turn off at New Malden Roundabout. The Exhibition is at Mootspur Park by kind permission of the University of London.

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