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THE BRITISH GOLF GREENKEEPER

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Front Cover Picture:

S. Selwood putting on the 9th green at Moor Park in the Senior Section, 'News of the World' Artisan Golf Tournament and Championship, Moor Park, Rickmanworth, August 8, 9, and 10th 1955.
Dear ‘Besieged’ of Tunbridge Wells...

If it’s any consolation, you are not alone in your difficulties.

Every week, groundsmen and greenkeepers write to me from all over the country, worried about the state of their turf; and the effect it’s having on their players.

I tell them that what they really need is a proper turf service. The best one I know of is operated by Fisons of Cambridge.

Not only do they offer an unusually fine range of products, but something that is invaluable in this day and age – a sympathetic ear.

They’ll send a man round to see you, free. You can talk things out and sort things out. (All their people are thoroughly trained in all aspects of turf culture.)

Then he’ll recommend the best course of action in your particular case; although, of course, you’ll be under no obligation.

Anyway, why don’t you get in touch with them yourself? The address to write to is: Fisons Ltd., Recreational and Industrial Dept., Harston, Cambridge, CB2 5HU. Or you may call them at 0223 870312.

Meanwhile, may I suggest a stout padlock?

The complete fine turf service.
The Atco Groundsman.
A cut above other mowers.

The 28" and 34" Groundsman are now available in both electric and kick-starter versions.

The electric version has a 12 volt self-starter, battery and automatic charging system as a standard fitment. Apart from this and their cutting widths, they share the same features.

To start with, they're both fitted with six heavy duty blades which give 81 cuts per yard—an unusually fine cut for their size.

They can be power driven with the cutters stationary by operating a cutter release clutch.

What's more, either machine may be used with or without the optional standard Atco trailer seat.

Another feature is the tubular handles specially designed for added manoeuvrability when turning.

They can be adjusted quickly to suit individual operator heights by means of an instant clamping lever.

There's a new 'swing over' type glass fibre grass box. It is mounted on tubular steel support arms and its lower section is recessed so it can be used with swivel front rollers.

Then there's a large capacity fuel tank which holds one gallon of petrol.

It takes one professional to recognise another. Is it any wonder then that Atco mowers are used on some of the most famous stretches of turf in this country.

ATCO As famous as the lawns we cut

For full details of Atco mowers write to Charles H. Pugh Ltd., P.O. Box 256, ATCO Works, Birmingham, B9 4PR.
Now there's a mosskiller that doesn't clog up the works.

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Hi-lite Mosskiller.

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Special mixtures have been developed by Mommersteeg for roughs and fairways with low mowing requirements—the Golf Rough providing all the necessary sporting qualities required but without the playing and maintenance problems of coarser blends, and two mixtures for golf fairways, the Park and the Royal, providing four essential qualities: hard wear, fine texture, drought tolerance and low mowing requirement.

Five grasses have been developed for the Golf Tees mixture, together producing a dense and hardwearing surface which will recover quickly from any turf damage and which retains an excellent colour in drought conditions.

For details of all Mommersteeg golf mixtures contact:
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Tee Shots

WE SEEMED TO LOSE a few between London and Shannon, but 47 members eventually made the trip to Boston in January, with no further losses. The same number returned safely at the end of the week.

General impressions were that this was a well worthwhile exercise. The hotel was a shade rugged but naturally this was reflected in the low price of the package deal.

The exhibition and educational assemblies occupied most of the few days but there was time for the odd excursion.

The sheer size of the conference was impressive in itself – over 5,000 visited the exhibition and 1,000 sat down to the banquet on our last evening.

We are most grateful to the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America for their kindness and hospitality; both were much appreciated and enjoyed.

★ ★ ★

Ransomes new film ‘The Royal and Ancient Game’ has already been shown to audiences in London, Brussels and the USA. Comments are very favourable and even those who have sat through it several times still enjoy seeing it.

★ ★ ★

The Chairman, Hon. Secretary, and Southern Section Hon. Secretary visited Ransomes, Ipswich, at the end of December to discuss Ransome’s offer to sponsor an international Greenkeepers’ match. The idea has been well received and will be further discussed at the Executive Meeting in March.

★ ★ ★

The Editor went to Brussels last month to address a gathering, representative of all the Belgian clubs, which was organised by Mr. Verbeek, Ransome’s Belgian agent. The subject was Golf Development and an interesting discussion ensued.

★ ★ ★

The new member stood above the lake at the short hole and hit ball after ball into the water.

Each one, brand new, he removed the paper, teed it up and topped it down the hill in front of the tee.

‘Why don’t you put down an old ball’ they asked.

He drew himself up sadly ‘I have never had an old ball’.

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New Cure For Sports Turf Diseases

by

P. D. W. Birch, Technical Services Manager, Pan Britannica Industries Limited

BEING CAUGHT with one's trousers down, so to speak, is as much an embarrassment to the onlooker as it is to the unfortunate victim. At Headingley, where the 4th Test Match nearly came to a premature halt, it was more a matter of being caught with the covers on, than with one's trousers down. No matter how you look at it, however, it certainly turned out to be an embarrassment to all concerned. After such a traumatic experience as this, it is worthwhile collecting one's thoughts and asking what can be done to prevent the situation arising again.

We all now know that the practical joker at Headingley was the fungus Fusarium nivale causing the well known Fusarium Patch disease. The covers had been necessary during the prolonged wet weather preceding the test. This had created a humid atmosphere over a moist turf and also forced the grass to grow away. Both of these conditions are ideal for the rapid spread of Fusarium. Once the disease has infected the turf and these conditions arise, the groundsman undoubtedly has a problem on his hands.

It is probably true to say however that he has, to a large extent, been handicapped in overcoming such a problem compared with his horticultural colleagues in the glasshouse industry who can treat their soils by steaming or drenching with one of many fungicides once the crop is removed. Various new chemical sterilents have come the way of the glasshouse grower over the years, while all the groundsman has had at his disposal are PCNB and the mercury containing compounds (although there is increasing concern about the use of the mercurials in view of their toxicity to man). Over the past three years, however, developments have been quietly but deliberately taking place on a so called new 'wonder' fungicide called Benlate,* which promises to redress the balance for the groundsman.

Benlate has been hailed as a wonder chemical in the horticultural industry where it has lived up to this reputation in every sense of the word, for it effectively controls 14 major diseases on over 16 crops in the UK. It is also the world's first broad-spectrum systemic fungicide, which means that it is taken into and moved through the plant. Furthermore, in contrast to the mercurials, Benlate is completely safe to man.

Well how does all this affect the groundsman? It means that he now has a completely safe and modern, broad-spectrum fungicide at his disposal for the control, not only of Fusarium Patch, but also Corticium (Red Thread) and Dollar Spot. It also appears that control of the increasingly important disease Ophiobolus can be achieved with Benlate.

**Trial Results**

Investigations on the use of Benlate against sports turf diseases in the UK were begun at the Sports Turf Research Institute in 1969. The earlier trials used relatively high rates of Benlate when it was shown that 12 oz/1000 sq. ft. of Benlate gave over 4 months complete protection against Fusarium, whereas a peak infection of 33-3% was recorded on the untreated turf. A similar rate reduced the level of Corticium (Red Thread) from 37% to only 8-7% after 6 weeks, compared to 15% – 18% and 23% for the mercurials and PCNB respectively. All assessments were expressed as a % of the surface affected by the disease.

A similar outstanding result was achieved against Ophiobolus following applications of 6 oz/1000 sq. ft. Benlate applied in August. The mean score for the untreated plots in October was 5-5 compared to 1-3 for the Benlate treatment where a score of 9 denotes a high incidence of disease. The score for other chemicals ranged from 1-8 to 6-5.

* Benlate is a Registered Trademark of E. I. Du Pont de Nemours & Co. (Inc.)

March 1973
Trials against Dollar Spot using Benlate at the 6 oz/1000 sq. ft. rate stopped the disease and kept the turf disease free for 10 weeks between July-September. To quote from the STRI journal, Benlate was 'exceptionally good both in degree of control and persistence'.

Following these early outstanding results, further trials were laid down in 1971 when reduced rates and the effects of nitrogen in combination with Benlate were studied.

For Fusarium, the earlier 12 oz rate was halved to 6 oz/1000 sq. ft. Again, a quite remarkable degree of control is seen in the diagram to be achieved following curative applications during October.

**Nitrogen Effects**

The benefits arising from joint applications of nitrogen fertilizers and Benlate under conditions of low fertility were shown from the trials on Corticium and, more especially, Dollar Spot. A 50/50 dried blood and sulphate of ammonia mixture was applied at 3/4 oz sq. yd to an area low in nitrogen one week before application of the fungicides. Benalate gave superior control of Dollar Spot compared to PCNB, and Corticium was completely prevented by applications of Benlate for 4 weeks, again being superior to PCNB.

The diagram shows that there was less re-infestation of both Dollar Spot and Corticium after 7 weeks where nitrogen was applied to the infertile turf. Similar benefits arising from the use of nitrogen under infertile conditions have also been shown to arise for other fungicides.

In view of the outstanding results obtained with Benlate from the STRI and following its widespread commercial usage throughout the USA, recommendations are now being made for preventative and curative treatments in the UK against Fusarium at 6 oz/1000 sq. ft and Dollar Spot and Corticium at 4 oz/1000 sq. ft. At these relatively low rates it is recommended that applications are repeated, as necessary, at 3-4 week intervals, although trials on Fusarium Patch reported above have shown 17 weeks persistance using a higher (16 oz/1000 sq. ft) rate.

Recommendations for the control of Ophiobolus at the 6 oz/1000 sq. ft rate will probably be made when confirmatory trials have been undertaken.

It is likely that the length of control achieved with Benlate at any of the above rates will exceed that achieved by the mercurials.

Well, the scene is now set for the next test match – Benlate vs Fungal diseases. This time, however, the new ball will be in the hands of the groundsman whether he be caring for Test wickets, tennis courts, golfing or bowling greens. There’s little doubt that the groundsman will be grateful to the STRI for giving him this advantage, for their work in pioneering this breakthrough for UK conditions has resulted in these recommendations.

For further literature on these recommendations the author asks that you contact him.

**Acknowledgement:** The Author would like to thank Mr. J. R. Escritt and Mr. A. R. Woolhouse of the STRI for their constructive comments in the preparation of this article.