

Crab or September Grass

WITCH, Crab, or September grass is an annual, tender, surface-rooting plant, the seeds of which are carried from place to place by the wind, but they cannot gain an entrance or grow in turf unless it is thin enough to allow them to reach the soil.

Now, as the plant is an annual, it will die in the fall of the year, and if it is not allowed to ripen its seed it cannot reproduce itself, and if the turf is kept sufficiently close to exclude the blown seeds, greens can be kept practically free from the weed.

In our opinion, there are only two ways of dealing with this terrible pest—the first being to pluck the seedling plants out by hand as soon as they are large enough to handle (say, sometime about the middle or end of July), a laborious but efficient proposition, and then strengthen the turf so as to exclude blown seeds; the other—and, we think, taking everything into consideration, the best—is to keep the turf as dense and close as possible, with the double object of preventing the plants that are already in the turf from seeding and reproducing themselves, and making it difficult for blown seeds to find a lodgment in the turf.

In order to keep the turf in this close, dense condition, it should be treated as follows:

Water the greens regularly and keep the turf mown quite short, especially when the crab grass begins to run, at which period it must be done even more carefully, and the prostrate stems lifted with close-toothed rakes so as to bring them within reach of the machine, and top-dress the greens frequently between the early days of July, when the weed first makes its appearance, and the end of September, when it dies, with a finely sifted compost made up of equal parts of good, light soil, Rex Humus, and sharp sand, mixed with Carter's Complete Grass Manure at the rate of one to two loads of the former to twenty-five pounds of the latter per four hundred superficial yards.

If the above system is adopted,

and the compost is carefully prepared, finely sifted, and watered in, no inconvenience will be caused to the players, the damage done by the weed will be reduced to a minimum, and the greens will be kept up to concert pitch.

Sand and Charcoal

PUTTING greens standing on heavy, wet, and other soft soils can be improved to an enormous extent if they are given a dressing of prepared charcoal.

Charcoal must not be regarded as a manure, but as a purifying absorbent which tends to aerate, purify and sweeten the soil, firm up the surface, and fine down the turf.

The charcoal should be applied broadcast at the rate of from fifty to seventy-five pounds per one hundred square yards, during the wettest period of the year, when the soil is in its softest condition and best able to absorb it, and well rubbed into the turf with the back of a wooden rake and then lightly rolled.

Sharp sand, sea sand preferred, is another very excellent dressing for soft, heavy, or spongy greens, especially if used in conjunction with charcoal.

It should be applied broadcast over the green to a depth of from one-eighth to a quarter of an inch, during the wettest period of the year, and rubbed in with the back of a wooden rake.

Sand, which cannot be classed as a manure, has a refining effect on the turf, renders a heavy soil more porous, and is distinctly valuable for trueing up bumpy greens and new greens made out of old grass land.

One cubic yard of sand will cover an area of one hundred and fourteen superficial yards to a depth of a quarter of an inch, or two hundred and eighty-eight yards to a depth of one-eighth of an inch.

To get the best results from sand and charcoal, the worms should first of all be exterminated, then give a dressing of charcoal, and, when this has worked in, one of sand.