Nitrate of Soda

IT is well known to every one interested in plant life that the three most important elements of plant food are nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash—and of these the one most usually lacking in the soil is nitrogen.

Soil without nitrogen is barren. It often happens in connection with the maintenance and upkeep of a golf course that it is necessary or advisable to apply some quick-acting manure to stimulate the growth of the grasses, perhaps to throw off some plant disease or fungi, or to produce a healthy, strong, thick growth to withstand expected severe weather conditions or heavy wear and tear.

There are many varieties of nitrogenous fertilizers, all of which are valuable as containing more or less nitrogen in some form or another, but nitrate of soda stands out by itself in one particular, viz., that it is the only one at present available on any large scale in which the nitrogen is in the form of "nitrates" and as such immediately "available," that is to say, in such form that the plant can absorb it within a few days of its application.

Sulphate of ammonia is the most concentrated of all nitrogen fertilizers, usually containing no less than 20 per cent. of nitrogen, while nitrate of soda will average about 15.6 per cent. It is the "by-product" from many manufacturing processes, abundantly produced in the manufacture of bone charcoal, illuminating gas or coke. Before the nitrogen in this compound, however, is available, it must be acted upon in the soil by nitric acid ferments, and unless the soil is acid free or sweet the results will be very unsatisfactory.

In other words, sulphate of ammonia should not be used where there is any suspicion that the soil may be sour, and we often find such is the case on many of our golf courses, especially on heavy clay wet soils.

Sulphate of ammonia and lime should never be mixed. The lime must be applied to the ground, first say in the Fall season, and then the sulphate of ammonia applied the following season and its action will be fairly rapid.

Both in the case of sulphate of ammonia and nitrate of soda they should not be used at the rate of over 150 pounds per acre, or better still two and one-half pounds per 100 square yards and applied mixed with some compost or sifted loam, and during dry weather watered in. The Spring of the year is the best time for the fertilizers, although they can be used sparingly during the season, but not in the late Fall. Remember that nitrate of soda is very quick in action and must be only used with discretion. It will last only one season, and as it only supplies one element of plant food, nitrogen, it must not be relied upon alone.

A complete artificial fertilizer rich in nitrogen is always the safest of the chemical manures to get in the habit of using in conjunction with stable and farmyard manure comports or humus.

To a Broken Club

Old Club, 'tis pity you and I must part,
And be no more companions on the field;
For you were fashioned with a master's art,
And worthy for a champion to wield.

How gladly did my eager finger grip
Your trusty shaft, so strong and sinewy,
And felt that, from your rounded toe
to tip,
No better club e'er swept the sandy tee!

How often did the ball, well driven, fly
Afar, straight toward the distant, guarded green
Upon the trim and yielding turf to lie,
And there to await the brassie's impact clean!

The sturdy shaft of yours for years withstood
Unnumbered tests through which we both have passed;
For your firm-ribbed and well-seasoned wood
All weaker growths was destined to outlast.

But sadly shattered is your boasted strength;
Unskilful was the blow that did the deed;
Now rent asunder is your slender length;
For you no more will golf's white ball be teed.

Farewell, old friend! No careless hand shall cast
Your broken form upon the kindling pile,
To lie with base, ignoble blocks at last,
That would your gloss immaculate defile.

No unkempt kitchen wench with greasy hand
Shall split you into splinters for her need
And, thoughtless, throw you on the burning brand,
In sooty stove her frying flames to feed.

The ample hearth shall be your funeral pyre,
My own familiar hand shall lay you there,
Upon the genial, glowing, household fire,
That cheers and warms the circle gathered there.

**Truing a Green**

It appears the universal method of Green Truing today, whether by sand or compost, is to have the material broadcasted with a shovel, then as evenly distributed as possible with the back of a rake.

It requires considerable experience to broadcast sand or compost upon the greens accurately enough to secure an even distribution. It also requires considerable experience to true a green with a rake.

We have found on numerous courses that the truing of the Greens was left to one man, and should he resign his position it would be a hard matter to fill the vacancy, owing to the inability of securing a man skillful enough to broadcast the material accurately enough to produce a perfectly true green. After numerous experiments in green truing, the most practical method, and one which does not require skilled labor, is by the use of a fair sized Cocoa Door Mat. The mat should not be less than 3' x 4' long. To the center of the narrow end fasten a rope. After applying the truing material, place it upon the ground bristle side down, and weight the mat down with a good size sod. Drag and cross drag the mat over the green until it is true. By using this method, the dressing will be perfectly distributed, and when the operation has been completed the surface will be perfectly true.