My 1931 Conditioning Program
Dodged Brown-patch

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WOW! WHAT a relief—
What a strenuous past season bearing down on that poor sap, greenkeeper.

But you learned a lesson, old timer, did you not? It was the most severe lesson in the past history. Now get over the grouch and apologize to your neglected family and friends.

Bear in mind, Old Top, you played a very important role the past season. The task will go down in history.

Cheer up. You may have lost a green or two but you laboriously fought that champion, Old Mother Nature, and deserve the highest praise. Boys, we'll tell the cock-eyed world we are not licked yet and may I further add: rub a little hair dye over those silver threads of late, roll your shirt sleeves up and shout, "Come on 1932, we are ready."

Well, brother greenkeeper, speaking of brown-patch, scald, weeds and heaven knows what, I will say I had my share of quack grass but controlled the brown-patch and scald somewhat successfully.

Visiting several golf courses during this period I discovered a scald upon the greens immediately following the brown-patch attack.

Certain greenkeepers had the brown-patch somewhat under control but the scald and copper colored greens lasted most of the season.

In most cases I discovered during the brown-patch attack a disinfectant was applied for further prevention but the preventive chemical, in some cases required no water for 48 hours. Thus the lack of water, the thermometer registering 100 degrees or more accompanied by high winds, I believe was responsible for a scald in all different colors appearing on the green.

The weather conditions during the first days of July to my estimation gave a greenkeeper much advance warning.

Taking heed of Mother Nature's warning, I had a method in mind and tried it with the hope of avoiding brown-patch and scald all season.

My method, which follows, may sound stupid, but here goes:

During the season if by any reason I suspected a brown-patch period, my greens were thoroughly watered all night until the following morning, and what I mean is plenty of watering.

Immediately after this long period of watering a disinfectant application was applied. Toward evening of that day a heavy topdressing (without fertilizer) was applied upon the greens but not matted until the following morning. That evening a light sprinkling followed. Upon the third day a very light topdressing with a fertilizer producing quickest results was applied. The above operation mentioned was followed by a light spraying of water and continued light sprinkling nights.

This method of mine was maintained during the season and my greens were free from brown-patch and scald all year.

Eliminating the mowing of fairways during the dry periods enables me to have the tractor men fully prepared with materials and ready at a moment's notice for any disastrous occurrences.

The above mentioned tactics may sound ridiculous but occasionally a long filler and a slap, on the back is presented me by the green-chairman.

WEEDING, fertilizing, and watering should not stop abruptly at the clipped margin of a green, but should be continued for several yards into the fairway, so that the approach area blends gradually from fairway turf into green turf.