of peat, be sure the material is thoroughly mixed with the sandy soil.

Topdressing with straight peat, thus creating a layer of pure peat, is one of the worst things we can do. When a peat layer is saturated with water the grass roots tend to grow to that layer and no further because there is no air below the layer.

The best way to mix the peat, without removing the sod, is to apply peat to the surface of the green and then aerify four to six times in different directions. Vertical mowing followed by dragging will help to mix the sand and peat.

Q — Players use the regular greens for practice as well as play and the concentrated traffic is just too much. Do you think it is possible to keep grass on the greens under these circumstances? (Minn.)

A — I agree with you that there is a point where traffic becomes so heavy it is impossible to maintain good grass, especially on a close-cut area like a putting area.

If your club could provide a practice green this certainly would help to reduce the overload on the regular greens. Plenty of aeration, abundant feeding and keeping the greens on the dry side will help to reduce compaction and to keep good grass growing. A strong vigorous creeping grass will help the situation.

Q — Every year our greens become infested with clover. We treat the greens to overcome the clover, but isn’t there some way to keep clover out entirely? (Ky.)

A — Yes, it would be better to prevent the clover infestation, rather than try to overcome it every year. The clover comes in because the grass is weakened in some way. Maybe you have a poor strain of grass in the first place. If this is the case you would do well to start a nursery of one of the improved strains, such as Pennlu or Cohansey, for example.

Disease may have been the factor that weakened the grass. Removal of surface trash, minimum use of water and chemical preventives all aid in controlling disease.

Insect damage often thins turf and allows clover and other weeds to come in. Modern insecticides do an excellent job of controlling pests. There may be injury by mechanical means — improper mowing or excessive traffic.

Each of these factors should be evaluated and checked.

Clover does not invade perfectly healthy, dense, vigorous turf of adapted strains of grasses. Good grasses, properly managed, to prevent clover infestation are a better answer than constantly trying to get rid of clover.

Q — We were very successful using old sawdust and sand to topdress greens. I tried the mixture with new sawdust and the results certainly were not at all the same. What might be the trouble? (N.C.)

A — Quite probably you did not use enough nitrogen along with the new sawdust to help the soil microorganisms break down the sawdust.