

How Chlorotic Grass Responded Quickly To Iron Sulphate

By O. J. NOER

The untreated square in the center of Lincoln CC green stayed yellow because grass did not get any ferrous sulphate. The rest of the green was almost back to normal in two hours.



Joe Hadwick examines chlorotic grass in the square that had been covered with a piece of corrugated paper.



Orville Belknap of Hillcrest in Lincoln points to the unsprayed square of turf on this bent green. The green was sprayed with ferrous sulphate at 2 ozs. per 1,000 sq. ft. The quantity of water was about 30 gals. for the entire green.

BENT turf on the green in Lincoln, Neb., behaved badly in the spring of 1957. Grass was off-color and did not respond to applications of fertilizer. Leaf spot was present. Nematodes were suspected as the cause by some people.

Joe Hadwick, supt. at Lincoln, and Orville Belknap of Hillcrest suspected iron chlorosis because of periodic drenching rains. Before applying iron they covered a small square with heavy paper to provide an untreated check.

Their results were most startling. Green color started to return in a matter of minutes rather than hours. The difference could be photographed in color and in black and white within two hours.

They used about half a pound of ferrous sulphate to the average green of 5,000 sq. ft. This is approximately 2 ozs. per 1,000 sq. ft. The amount of water was 25 to 30 gals. per green and no more. Success depends on using a minimum amount of water — just enough to deposit the iron sulphate on the blades of the grass. Late afternoon is a good time to spray, provided watering is not contemplated until the next morning or the following evening.

When iron chlorosis appears it is important to apply the iron promptly, before leaf spot, wilt or something else kills the weakened grass. In a case of doubt, cover a small area with a fertilizer bag or a piece of coarse paper to act as an untreated check.



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