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Sky Ponds Unreliable Water Sources

Speaking to the Mid-Atlantic GCSA group, J. Frederick Hazen, U.S.D.A. soil conservationist, warned that artificial ponds dependent on natural rainfall and run off are unreliable sources of irrigation water. “They always fail when you need them the most”, stated Hazen, “unless the level can be supplemented from wells or other assured sources.”

Sky ponds, as Hazen calls them, are also bad with respect to breeding and stocking fish. The fluctuating water level causes all the trouble.

Weed Control Influenced Fertility

After five years of testing both colonial and creeping type bents, Ralph Engle of Rutgers University, finds they haven’t deteriorated even at the $\frac{1}{8}$ in. cut. The creepers are best with Penncross leading the list.

Rutgers also reports nitrogen levels influence presence of dandelions. At the 2-lb. actual nitrogen level there were 55 dandelions per plot, whereas 4 lbs. of nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft. reduced the count to 20.

Ralph stressed the importance of soil reaction in relation to growth. At pH 5.5, the check plots yielded 41 grams per
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unit area. Addition of fertilizer brought about an increase to 60 grams, but fertilizer plus enough lime to bring the reaction to neutral (pH 7.0) increased the yield to 74 grams.

Chlordane shows considerable promise as a pre-emergence control of crabgrass with dry applications on either attaclay or vermiculite superior to a liquid treatment. The 80-lb. rate of technical Chlordane per acre gives the best control, according to Engel.

**Seeding Probably Weakened**

Paul Sartoretto, W. A. Cleary Corp., also enlightened us on the matter of weed control. “Pre-emergence arsenicals and Chlordane don’t kill the seed but weaken the seedling,” he says. This fact could explain some reports that lead arsenate failed to stop poa annua. Paul feels the fall seedlings that emerge, following the use of arsenicals, are “weak sisters” and should expire with the first period of hot weather the following summer.

Two to four applications of DSMA at 10 lbs. per acre should control dallisgrass. The addition of 1 lb. of 2,4-D also is advocated by several experiment stations. This leaves goose or silver crab our most pressing problem. It has been controlled with a mixture of PMA and 2,4D or DSMA and 2,4D. However, these mixtures can damage bent and should be handled with extreme caution. Sartoretto mentioned that pre-emergence Chlordane at 80 lbs. technical per acre looks promising on this pest in Oklahoma.

**Prevention Most Important**

Bob Miller, DuPont’s roving pathologist believes the successful superintendents approach to disease should be one of prevention rather than cure. In fact, Bob feels the word “cure” is a misnomer. “One either arrests or prevents with fungicides since disease organisms are ever present in soil, air, and water,” he explains. The biggest part of prevention is good cultural practices. Growing healthy grass assures the success of any fungicidal program. Fungicides are excellent for disease, but fail miserably in correcting poor drainage, water logged soils, and physiological imbalance of nutrition, according to Miller.

A record 73 qualifying competitions, in two series, will be held to determine the field for the 59th USGA Open, to be played June 11-13 at Winged Foot.