When a golfer misses a putt any thing can happen!!!

1. Hydrated lime alone stopped disease and grass had recovered about 50 per cent.
2. Hydrated lime plus 2 lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft. of powdered nitrogen material stopped disease and grass had recovered about 75 per cent.
3. Control (check) plots steadily deteriorated under continued 95+ temperatures.

Start to Collect Clippings

One complaint was that grass wouldn't grow - no clippings. Two days after the lime-plus treatments, mower baskets once more started filling.

Too simple? Perhaps. But let's look at what seemed to take place. The hot-humid microclimate was highly favorable to the fungi that were operating to make the grass "melt" or "wear out." The light spray of hydrated lime, lightly rinsed in, caused a "flash" change in the microclimate to a high of pH 9.5 or thereabouts. (No actual measurements were taken here - this is factual information from previous research.)

Fungi wither at this high pH range and can not survive. Necessary bacteria are encouraged once more and effective turfgrass sanitation is achieved. The small addition of nitrogen added further stimulus to the bacteria (carbon and nitrogen). Grass started to grow and recover from the disease(s), even with continued unfavorable growing conditions.

Where inorganic mercury materials had been used for diseases, grass growth was checked severely and recovery was slow.

Sanitation in turfgrass may be furthered by several procedures, not the least of which is the timely and judicious use of lime. Let not the reader be confused by soil tests which read "pH 7.0" or "pH 7.4" It is possible for the pH in the microclimate to be in the acid range and thus highly favorable to fungus diseases, even though the soil reaction below is neutral to alkaline (favorable).

This department welcomes letters pro and con on experiences in sanitation with lime and other methods and materials. The concept of turfgrass sanitation deserves thorough study.

A Black Algae Problem

Q. Each fall when the rains come some of our greens are severely affected by black algae. Is there a cure-all that would stop this when the greens get too much water?

We have a thatch problem but the turf is

(Continued on page 76)