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PEORIA, ILLINOIS

year of being one of two clubs in the city to withstand the summer with almost perfect greens, but we did use about twice as much fungicide as in other years. Could this have caused our greens to be weak and subject to Poa Annua? I attribute a lot of our trouble to the cool, wet spring. Please answer at once so we can check or stop this siege of Poa Annua. (O.)

A—It is my fervent hope that research workers soon will learn how Poa Annua can be eliminated. For discussion on Poa, we refer you to this department in GOLFDOM's past issues. See also USGA Journal, July 1951 page 27. Read also Turfgrass Conference Proceedings at Purdue where Poa was thoroughly discussed. There is no one answer to Poa control but if it were my course, I would learn how to use sodium arsenite in a sprayer and I would do a lot of spraying.

Regardless of the reasons for grass being weakened, Poa invasion is a natural result where large quantities of water are used. Diseases and insects rate high for giving Poa a foothold. Compaction helps also. Weak strains of grass lack aggressiveness to keep Poa out. You did not say what kind of bent you started with.

Arsenic (lead arsenate or sodium arsenite) seems to be of great value in fighting Poa. Dr. Min. Daniel at Purdue has done some classic work on the problem and his papers are very much worth serious study.

Cool wet weather is conducive to growth of Poa. Unless we have a desirable grass that grows better than Poa under these conditions maybe we should not expect too much. Where Poa is out of control you would do well to have a turfgrass specialist from your State University give you a hand.

Q—Poa annua is our No. 1 problem. Is there any chemical formula available for elimination of this pest in bentgrass greens? (Ky.)

A—There is no simple formula, chemical or otherwise, for eliminating Poa annua from greens. It is considered a pest in Florida, California, New England and other places, too. Keeping greens free of this pest probably is the high mark of the art and science of greenkeeping. The best chemicals to keep Poa annua in check are arsenate of lead and sodium arsenite. Both may be applied as a spray solution, or dry mixed with topdressing. Lead arsenate is used at 1 oz. per 1,000 sq. ft. starting in early spring and applied monthly except in hot weather. It is more effective when soil phosphorus is low.

Sodium arsenite is much more potent and requires more skill because it is essentially a contact herbicide, affecting leaves and seed stalks. It usually is applied 1/2 oz. to 1,000 sq. ft. as a spray in 2 or 3 gals. of water; or 1 oz. to 1,000 sq. ft. in the dry form mixed with sand or topdressing. Bentgrasses may get a slight tipburn but they quickly recover, generally after the new mowing. Repeat sodium
arsenite treatments every 10 days to two weeks except in hot weather. Try it out in the nursery first to get the “feel” of sodium arsenite. Don’t look for quick spectacular results because they will be gradual.

As we have said before, you can help give Poa annua the “bum’s rush” by introducing more vigorous grasses, by keeping greens on the dry side, and by applying principles of aerating and vertical mowing.

Q—What is your opinion of the new Uramite fertilizer? Would you recommend it? If so, at what rate? (Wisc.)

A—Experimental evidence to date shows that Uramite produces results comparable to those developed from natural organics such as Milorganite, Agrinite and seed meals. We do not yet have evidence that could warrant a statement that it is better than natural organics. Slow, steady release of nitrogen is one feature—non-burning characteristics another. To offset this, natural organics carry phosphorus, potash and certain trace or minor elements. Uramite contains nitrogen only.

In some instances the lasting effect is only half as great as claimed, probably affected by compact soil, lack of aeration, excess water, and other factors. Some users attempt to correct by doubling the recommended quantity.

My last recommendation for any fertilizer is to follow manufacturer’s directions. We have observed good results when fertilizer is applied following aeration.

Q—We want your advice on using sewage sludge on golf greens, such as in topdressing mixture; using it straight as topdressing; and using it in mixture in building a new green in place of peat. We may try this. (Ill.)

A—Raw or partially digested sewage sludge is not recommended to be used straight as topdressing on greens. I have seen bad burns on bentgrass from using sludge straight. If you were to spread the sludge out on a soil bed, disc it into the soil and let it compost for a year, you’d find it an excellent addition to the topdressing mixture. It can be used this way to replace part of the peat.

Sludge decomposes so rapidly that it would not be wise to depend upon this source alone for organic matter. In building a new green it would be very beneficial if sludge were used as composted material, disc and blended a year in advance into the topsoil that is to be used for the top 4-8 in. on the green. A generous application of complete fertilizer high in P & K is recommended to be added to the soil bed in which the sludge is to be composted. Properly used, sludge can be a good material for supplementing the topdressing used on greens.

Q—Why is it better to apply all-organic fertilizer in the fall instead of the spring? (N. Y.)

A—Your query is reminiscent of the trick question asked by the prosecuting attorney—“Have you stopped beating your wife?” Any way you answer you are wrong.

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The organic fertilizer in the fall is best? I am not aware of any data to support that procedure. We have seen many good results from heavy late fall application, especially in the way grass starts strong early in the spring and recovers from injuries.

Regular applications of organics right through the season have become routine procedure. It's possible the practice to which you refer may have been done on some basis with which I'm not familiar. Further discussion would be most helpful, but you neglected to sign your letter and gave no address.

Q—Please examine samples of soil and sand I am sending and give me your opinion of the best mixture for topdressing my bent greens. (Pa.)

A—The soil appears to be dry loam with good physical structure. The sand is graded from coarse to fine, but most of it is what I would call coarse. This is good. With a good grade of peat or well decomposed sawdust on hand, I would suggest this mixture:

Sand, 7 parts by volume
Clay loam, 2 parts by volume
Organic material, 1 part by volume

I am sure that you will be much better satisfied with this mixture if you can make it up a year ahead, treat it for weed seeds (sterilize with cyanamid or methyl bromide), and let it develop a "bond" between the particles. This will give the micro-organisms a chance to operate and develop some aggregates before you use it. It will be best if you continue to use the same mixture year after year.

Q—Would you give us your solution to hard greens? Our greens will not hold a shot unless they have been soaked with water. It is the opinion of several members that an aerifier would solve our problem. (Ala.)

A—Your members who believe in aerifying are to be commended. It will help in a large way but it is not an end in itself. You need also to grow roots so as to have a cushion of turf which will hold a shot. To grow grass it takes regular adequate feeding and sensible watering. Aerifying helps in several ways; it loosens soil mechanically, thus making it softer and better able to hold a shot without being soaking wet all the time; it lets air, water and fertilizer deep into the root zone, thus helping to grow roots and well cushioned turf.

If you would send me a sample of the soil in your greens I could give you a more accurate answer on how and when to aerify and what to add after aerifying. Please tell me something of your fertilizing program and the kind of grass you farm the greens. You should know by now that I am a staunch advocate of using the right grass and feeding it adequately.

I might add that the excess moisture in the soil, designed to help soften the soil to hold a shot, actually works the other way, making the soil harder. Grass roots need lots
of air. Without air (drowned) they suffocate and can absorb neither water nor fertilizer. Not only do the roots drown but they starve and die of thirst.

My suggestion is to aerify in four directions to get thorough cultivation. Revamp your fertilizer and water program and repeat the four-way aerifying each month until you can let the greens go a week in dry weather with no irrigation and have them hold a shot perfectly. We can go into details when I see some of the records of your operations. A soil analysis report also will help.

Q—Do you think our club should finance trips to turf conferences for its supt.? (Va.)
A—The best answer I can give is a direct quote from the Mid-Atlantic News Letter for May, 1956:

"Any supt. who misses these conferences is not doing justice to his club; and any club that does not send its supt. to the conference is not doing the right thing in the best interests of its members."

Q—We have inherited a large supply of dinitrosec-butyl-phenyl (dinitro-ortho-secondary-butyl-phenyl) (DNSOBD) 6.9 per cent petroleum oil, 79.7 per cent, remainder, inert. What is the recommended dosage and usage?
A—The answer to this one comes from John Gallagher, American Chemical Paint Co., Ambler, Pa.:

This combination can be used safely only where complete kill of all vegetation is desired, such as driveways, sand traps, etc. There would be no selectivity. It is recommended that it be used just as it comes from the can the same as you would use an oil spray.

Byes to Low Qualifiers

Orville Chapin, pro at Ft. Wayne (Ind.) CC, remarks that the customary method of allotting byes isn’t logical — and there are many golfers who will agree with him and approve a change.

Chapin says:

"A qualifying round is a process of elimination; the weaker players are thrown out. My idea of the present method is that the better player is at a distinct disadvantage. For instance in a flight of 32 where only 28 players compete the four lowest qualifiers have to play two rounds to get to the quarter finals whereas the 13th, 14th, 15th, and 16th qualifiers only have to play one round to enter the quarter finals. In such a case four of the higher qualifiers have an advantage because of inferior play in qualifying.

"My idea is that any byes should be distributed to the lowest qualifiers. That is, if there should be four byes they should be allocated to the four lowest qualifiers."
Book Review

The Walter Hagen Story . . . By The Haig as told to Margaret Seaton Heck . . . Published by Simon and Schuster, 630 5th Ave., New York, N. Y. Price $4.95.

The golf pro who doesn’t read this rollicking epic of the Great Emancipator leaves himself open to the suspicion he can’t read. It’s the story of how American tournament pro golf was made big business by the colorful non-conformist who quickly learned that a home club pro job was too tough for him.

After the usual old routine of caddy, assistant and head pro Walter became the first pro to specialize in tournament and exhibition play and made a brilliant success of the job. The money that Hagen made and spent established a new standard for pro fees. On the basis of today’s inflated dollar against the value of money when Walter was operating as a player he surpassed the financial scoring of today’s tournament stars with a crowded big-money schedule of events.

There is a great deal of lively detail about Walter’s earning and spending. He gave his prize money $375 for his first British Open victory to his caddie. The British Open trips cost Walter about $10,000 each. Each of them was financed by what he made in the stock market under the guidance of Jesse Livermore. From each of them he got off the ship broke again, but with his services in such great demand he had no difficulty in quickly getting well financially.

The book is jammed with yarns of the exciting, historic and profitable competitive events in which Hagen’s personality and performance put pro golf in sports page prominence.

Hagen got a lot out of golf and he put a lot back into the sport and business that gave him his opportunity. It’s paid him to continue to play along with his pro comrades. The story of how he happened to get into the club manufacturing business is among the countless incidents he relates. He says: “I feel the professional golfer is entitled to sell golf equipment and knows the needs better than anyone else.” That policy has Walter sitting pretty now.

The marvelous job that the late Bob Harlow did in directing the Hagen show when Bob succeeded Dicky Martin as Walter’s manager sparkles in Walter’s book.

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If silver crab is still a problem on your greens, then you haven’t heard the latest news. Because Nott, with many years experience in formulating crab grass and broadleaf weed killers, has now successfully combined “Di Sodium Monomethyl Arsonate” (SODAR) with 2, 4-D... a specific for silver crab and ideal for chickweed, plantain, dandelion, smooth and hairy crab grass.

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June, 1956 75
Lord club opens new clubhouse and pro shop... Don Paul, mgr., Old York Road CC (Philadelphia dist.) resigns to go to St. Petersburg, Fla., for "reasons of family health"... Paul succeeded Jerry Russell as 1st vp of the Philadelphia Club Managers Assn. when Russell resigned that job and as mgr. of Brookside CC, to become part owner and mgr., Biltmore, Inn, Edina, Minn. Steve Grady, Brookside pro, coaches Hill school varsity and jr golf squads and has been developing many quite competent kid players among the 75 to 80 Hill school lads who play Brookside... Brookside planning $241,000 improvement campaign including 9 additional holes, new locker room for women and new pro shop.

Midwest Assn. of Golf Course Supts. held their annual spring dinner and dance May 5 at River Forest (Ill.) GC with large and merry attendance and veterans dancing just as lively as when they were young in course maintenance profession... Ward Cornwell, GCSA national pres., and his wife, were guests... Old Elm, rich men-only of Chicago district has new watering system engineered by C. E. "Scotty" Stewart and installed under supervision of Scotty, Ray Didier, and Elmer and Al Bertucci of Old Elm... Didier put in two lakes as storage against water shortage which has plagued Chicago district courses in previous years... Certainly no water shortage on Chicago district courses this spring... Rain has been brutal to pro business in cutting down play... Ball sales suffered most... Club sales pretty good. Rain got so frequent that many began playing in the rain and enjoying it... Rain garments, rubber spiked shoes, non-slip grips provided comfort and exercise.

Bob Williams, supt., Beverly CC, Chicago, Ill., now has Ted Woehrle as asst. Ted is son of supt. at Highland CC, Kankakee, Ill... He attended Purdue two years and served as Army lt.... Williams was guest speaker on subject of "Business Practices and Maintenance" at Cleveland dist. GCSA meeting at Elyria (O.) CC... Stan Graves and Mel McLaren, Cleveland dist. officials, to be guests of Midwest GCSA at June meeting at Ravisloe CC.

Wm. Diddle architect of new 9 for Meadowbrook CC, Dayton, O., which will open in spring, 1957 and give Meadowbrook 18 holes... New York Met dist. clubs beginning to go strong for silica sands in traps.
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Richard S. Lord, for past 12 years, supt., Westwood CC, Williamsville, N. Y., died recently... He was in golf maintenance work more than a quarter century and was very highly regarded by his colleagues in golf course work, by others in golf business and by club members as a cheering and helpful friend and an authority in his field... He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Nellie Lord of Middleport, N. Y.

H. H. "Babe" Moore resigns as pro at Ellinor Village GC, Ormond Beach, Fla... White Mountain GC, Arizona new summer resort course in mountains, to open in July... Milt Coggins, pro at Encanto GC, Phoenix, getting the White Mountain golf operation organized... Illinois Women's Golf Assn. to hold its 15th annual IWGA Victory tournament with $1 entry fee for 18-hole competition among women players at any club in Illinois, before Sept. 15... last year the IWGA event raised $6726 at 87 clubs... Money goes to Cancer society, Evans caddie scholarships, Swing Club activities for servicemen and veterans and beds for polio patients.

Sixth annual Central Plains Turfgrass Field Day at Topeka, Ks., June 11... Main themes will be fungicides, insecticides and herbicides and a Gadget Show of homemade equipment for odd jobs in maintenance will feature the program... Central Plains Turfgrass Foundation booth at McPherson, Ks., Home Show was center of homeowners' interest... Bob Jones has been elected an honorary member of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews.

Clarence Clark returns to a club job as pro-mgr. at Lyons (Ks.) CC... Clarence went from Carey Park GC, Hutchinson, Ks., after 10 years as its pro-mgr. to operate O'Brien's Golf Center in Wichita last year... Back in the 1930s Clarence was one of the top tournament pros and quit that work to teach... Miller High Life $35,000 Open to be played at Tripoli CC, Milwaukee, Aug. 16-19 and Supt. Frank Maurina says the course will be in the same perfect shape it's in now.

Don W. Jones, sports editor of Prentice-Hall, Inc., 70 5th ave., New York 11, devised a clever booklet for keeping a personal golf record and round analysis chart for bookstores to give away with each copy of Tips from the Top, a Prentice-Hall book.

Pat Mahoney from Lake Merced (Calif.) G&CC to Palo Alto (Calif.) new muny course (Continued on page 93)
Pros from coast to coast are using

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D. C. Bell & Son, Inc., Kansas City, Mo., has been appointed representative for Roseman Mower Corp., Evanston, Ill. In business for 30 years and well known in Kansas and Missouri, Bell & Son is carrying a full stock of parts and equipment for overhauling and servicing Roseman mowers. Sales and service are under the direction of Maurice Bell, general mgr.

Idaho Tournament to be Held in July

The annual Southwest Idaho tournament will be held at Plantation GC, Boise, July 6, 7, 8 following qualifying rounds which will be held on the 4th and 5th. More than $2,000 in trophies and pro-line merchandise is being offered in prizes, according to Ernie Tucker, Plantation pro.
Keep Your Eye on It
If you take your eye off the ball here you can blame Gail Greenwell, pert Kansas City model, who diverted a lot of attention from the pros who took part in the recent Kansas City Open at Milburn CC. U. S. Rubber fabricated this outsize pellet.

New MacGregor Grips
Available on '56 Clubs

Here are new grips available on the 1956 MacGregor clubs. At top is the Tri-Tac, available on MacGregor's new line of clubs. It is molded of three different composition materials each containing a special tackiness that remains constant under all conditions. Humi-Dri (center) is of special two-tone rubber composition; and at the bottom is Calfskin, which is perforated and bevelled and made of top quality material. Patents have been applied for on each of the three grips. Complete information can be obtained from MacGregor Co., 4861 Spring Grove ave., Cincinnati 32, O.
Market Survey Pointed to Diatomic Club Pro-Only Policy

By HERBERT C. JOHNSON, JR.

Pres., Nadco Sporting Goods Co., Chicago

During the past two years hundreds of professional golfers in eight representative states have provided our company with the most dependable information on merchandise, market and marketing policy a manufacturer could hope to get.

Our company has been in business for many years and has attained a high reputation and very large sales volume in automotive and aviation devices. The golf cart business accounted for our successful debut in the golf field. Until recently golf carts were the only products we made for golf.

As we approached a new development in golf our golf cart salesmen undertook the important task of market research required. The findings were invaluable as guidance in our new operation of making distinctive golf clubs.

Figures, observations and opinions from the pros who are in position to view and forecast the golf market better than any other groups indicate that within 10 years the pros will sell about 80 per cent of the top and medium quality golf playing equipment.

There also is an indication that the professional at the first class metropolitan district club will have a staff of at least three teaching assistants, two shop men and one man continuously employed during the season at club cleaning and other back-of-shop work.

Today, pros seeing the forecast of larger staffs will wonder how the payrolls are going to be met when the staff consists of seven or more men. The clubs are going to have to meet that bill for required service and there is a possibility that the guaranteed monthly minimum pro department account or a set fee for pro department service may become general.

There already are, in tournament golf, more college graduates than there are non-collegiate contestants. Some young men now on the tournament circuit or at clubs as assistant professionals have had commerce schooling in college and are qualified to apply that training to the advancement of pro golf business. Physical education degrees of college trained pros also will be a factor in the future of professional golf.

The professionals have seen what college...