

Applying Chemicals To Greens

By VICTOR GEORGE, Greenkeeper, Country Club of Lafayette, Ind.

APPLYING different fertilizers and chemicals to my greens, in a quick, effective, safe and inexpensive way, has been my problem, and, no doubt, the problem of many greenkeepers. So, I believe it will not be out of order to review some of the methods I have used and am now using at the Country Club of Lafayette, Indiana.

Be it known that Lafayette is the headquarters of our old friend, B. P. One attack follows another, with such an alarming speed that it is necessary to treat the greens weekly and at times oftener. This, of course, means fertilizing to a greater extent than would otherwise be necessary, because there is nothing that will bring a green back quicker and better than a light dose of Ammonium Phosphate or Sulphate.

Back in 1925, we used Semesan (Chlorophenal Mercury). We used this in a 50 gallon barrel and applied with sprinkling cans at the rate of one pound to fifty gallons of water, to 1000 square feet.

Effective though this method was, it took too much time. So, in 1926, the club invested in a rather elaborate power spray. We used this spray for some time, but found at best we had to spend from one hour to one and one-half hours per green; also there was great danger of burning, unless handled very carefully. We sold this spray at a good price and started using the dusting method.

In 1927, we commenced using Corrosive Sublimate, applying 1 pound per 6000 square foot, mixed in 1 yard of top dressing. Aside from the difficulty of thoroughly mixing 1 pound of mercury to 1 yard of soil, we saved considerable time, but still it seemed too slow. I tried putting the flags on temporary greens while treating, and almost got shot.

In the summer of 1927, I commenced broadcasting 1 pound of Calomel to one bucket of soil and in this way I was able to treat a green in about 15 minutes, having a man follow with the hose, and water thoroughly. As we have a very good water system, the whole operation was completed in about 20 minutes.

While seeding a rough with Sheep's Fescue, using a cyclone seeder, I happened to think that this seeder could be used for treating greens. We tried the seeder and it sure does the work. We now apply the chemicals in about 5 minutes and by using 4 men, leaving one on each green, to sprinkle, I am able to treat 9 greens in 3 hours, and no danger of burning, unless the men with the hose get careless, which I am glad to say has not happened so far.



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Well-known greenkeeper using a Cyclone seeder
for applying chemicals to greens

My assistant has a pair of splendid legs and gets over the course in no time at all, leaving me free to superintend the watering, which is, of course, the most important part in using this method.

As the cyclone seeder as sold on the market is not substantial enough for this work, I had a tin hopper with a funnel-shaped bottom made, which feeds the soil freely to the whirlwheel. Also, the gear and handle is too light, which requires replacing by a heavier one. This can be done with very little expense, and thus for a five dollar bill, you can get the best fertilizer distributor attainable.