

Eradication Of Brown Patch

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CONTINUING the study concerning the efficiency of chemicals for the eradication of brown patch, the compounds of mercury that have been used for a long time, we all know or should know are very dangerous to handle and must be applied to greens with a great deal of care.

Among the compounds of mercury, calomel and corrosive sublimate are the ones most frequently recommended and used. Unfortunately, calomel is quite insoluble in water and corrosive sublimate is so intensely poisonous to man and animals as to make its use extremely dangerous.

I have found that brown patch can be checked by the use of these compounds but the manufacturers of these products frankly state that they are very poisonous. In order to overcome these harmful effects, the manufacturers of brown patch formulae, which contains these organic compounds of mercury, have to add a filler of some inert material that, of course, weakens the compound and reduces the fungi-killing power. We are told that all mercurials, that is, compounds containing mercury, are toxic to man.

However, my chemist friend tells me that this statement is not entirely correct, because such a well-known germicide as mercuriochrome, which is an organic compound of mercury, is not toxic and has been used for years.

In view of the above information it seemed to my chemist friend that it might be possible to produce an organic compound of mercury which

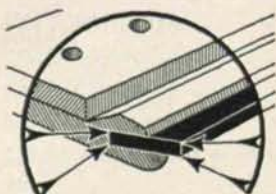
would destroy these objectionable fungi without burning the grass or poisoning those who come into contact with it. With this idea in mind he has prepared a long series of organic compounds of mercury by many different methods and he is convinced that the method used in manufacturing these compounds not only determines their fungi-destroying power but controls the degree of their poisonous or toxic nature as well.

It seems that the explanation for this remarkable behavior is found in the fact that while these organic compounds of mercury are being made other reactions take place at the same time, producing compounds of an extremely poisonous and toxic nature. He has found that when these side or by-products are removed by some suitable method of purification the organic mercury compound loses its harmful properties while in many cases its fungi-killing power increases.

In this manner he has been able to produce a number of organic compounds of mercury which are extremely effective in eradicating brown patch as outlined in my previous article but these compounds do not burn the grass or show any toxic effects on man or animals.

We are continuing our experiments and will communicate further results at an early date.

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Obituary

IN MEMORY of William Sharkey, Greenkeeper, Essex County Country Club, for 32 years, who passed away September 6, 1932. Aged 63 years, one of the deans of greenkeeping. A member of the National Association of Greenkeepers of America and Greenkeepers' Association of New Jersey, one of our oldest greenkeepers who always kept himself and his methods of greenkeeping abreast of the times, beloved by all who knew him, especially his fellow greenkeepers.

Well done, thou good and faithful servant—enter into the joy of thy reward.

JOHN ANDERSON,
Crestmont Golf Club, West Orange, N. J.