

Earthworm Control continued

than previously. Many clubs have tended to let fairways carry on without any treatment with fertiliser, lime or anything else but with the advance of time and the demand for better conditions (coupled with increasing wear) clubs have had to face fairway treatment more and more. In this country most fairways tend to get more acid in course of time and this, together with poor supplies of plant foods, has resulted in very suitable swards often mainly of bentgrass. However, ultimately the conditions become too poor even for bentgrass and application of lime and/or fertiliser becomes necessary. Unfortunately these treatments sometimes result in the incidence of earthworms and also disease. Expert advice can usually minimise these risks though not entirely eliminate them.

A treatment which has never been used extensively and has possibly been used even less in recent years is that involving finely ground sulphur. On wet, clay soils with a reasonable lime status treatment with sulphur can dry up fairways quite a lot and have the further effect of reducing weed and worm infestation. Sulphur treatment can cause a great deal of damage if used badly or under the wrong circumstances and before using it extensively small-scale trials are suggested. On these trials finely ground sulphur at rates of $\frac{1}{2}$, 1 and 2 oz. per sq. yd. can be spread in the spring and the effects noted over the following 12 months.

The sulphur should be well mixed with a large proportion of slightly damp compost or similar to facilitate spreading and minimise scorch risk (the latter being of a delayed action type, damage occurring on patches receiving excess application possibly several months after treatment).

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