

# Growth retardants

by

D. G. Reid

In certain cases, although the grassing down of areas is desirable maintenance, especially mowing with machines, it is either difficult or practically impossible. In such cases the retarding of grass growth is advantageous.

The chemical to use is Maleic Hydrazide. Repeated applications over two or three years has the effect of altering the composition of a grass sward to consist mainly of the lower growing grass species.

To inhibit the growth of grass and to reduce the frequency of cutting, this chemical can be applied to roadside verges, rough grass areas in cemeteries, banks, around trees and posts and by the greenkeeper, for the treatment of bunkers.

Used as suggested, it is not strictly a killer of weeds, but if it is desirable to eradicate broad-leaved weeds from the site and retain the grass, the addition of a hormone-based selective weed killer 2,4-D is recommended, since with the retarding of the grass, broad-leaved weeds thrive, due to reduced competition.

Maleic Hydrazide does also exhibit some weedkilling properties, and when applied with 2,4-D the control of Cow Parsley is superior to that obtained from 2,4-D alone.

Other uses of Maleic Hydrazide include the retardation of privet hedges and the control of sucker growth on trees.

## Mixing

Maleic Hydrazide mixes readily with cold water. If a selective weedkiller is to be sprayed at the same time for a control of broad leaved weeds, the retarder should be dissolved in the full quantity of water before adding selective weedkiller.

## Timing

Best results follow Spring application shortly after the grass has begun to grow. Mid-April to mid-May; depending upon an early or late season. A second application after 8 to 10 weeks is sometimes advisable where a high standard of suppression is required, when 1½ gallons per acre will check growth until the following May. The same dosage will then keep grass retarded for the rest of the season.

Always spray in fine weather, when rain is not likely for 30 hours. Do not spray during a prolonged drought. If treatment has been unavoidably delayed and the growth is rank, cut the grass first and carry out the spraying when the grass has regrown to 4 to 6 in. high.

## Application details

- (1) For highway verges, banks, etc., 1 application at the rate of 1½ gallons in 40/80 gallons of water per acre, per annum.
- (2) For housing estates, cemeteries, etc., 2 applications of 1 gallon in 40/80 gallons of water per acre, per annum.

## Precautions

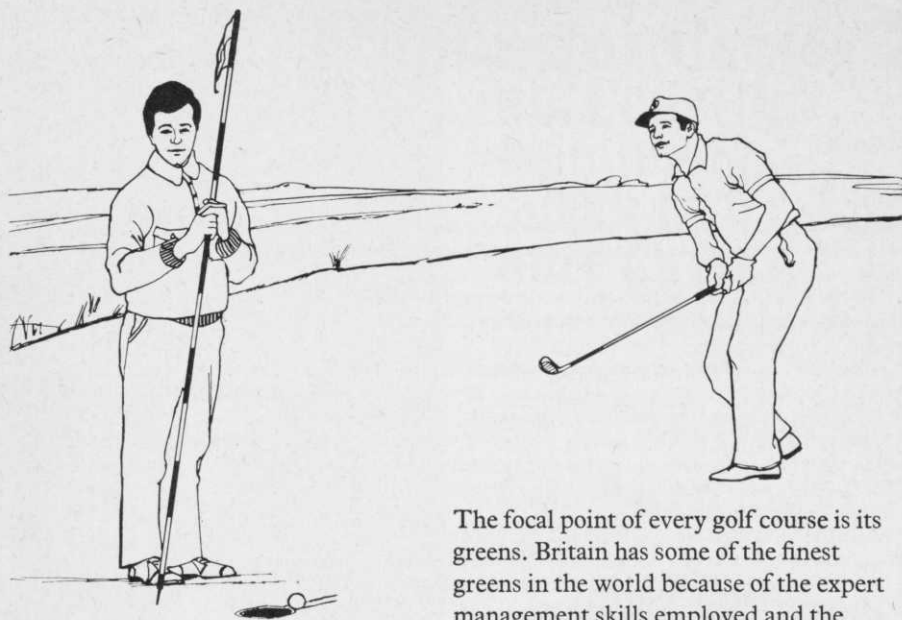
Grass growth retarder is of low toxicity, but when using any type of chemical it is advisable to wash the hands and other skin parts exposed to the chemical spray.

Rubber gloves and overalls should be worn if the spraying programme is a long one.

## Price and Quantities – January 1st 1971

Maleic Hydrazide with 2,4-D added by the manufacturer. 1 gallon £2.70. Units of 3 x gallon per gallon £2.60, 5-gallon drums each £12.50, 5 x 5-gallon drums each £12.00.

With grateful acknowledgements to THE GROUNDSMAN, February, 1972.



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## Hon. Secretary's Notes

### AGM, St. Annes Old Links Golf Club

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the fifty-fifth Annual General Meeting of the British Golf Greenkeepers' Association will be held at St. Annes Old Links Golf Club on Monday 14th August 1972 at 2.30 p.m. Notice of resolutions must be sent in writing to the Hon. Secretary TWENTY-ONE DAYS before the date of the meeting. Under Rule 29 proxies may be voted at all general meetings. A Form of Proxy may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary and returned not later than the first post on Wednesday 9th August

### ANNUAL TOURNAMENT

The fifty-fifth Annual Tournament will be held at St. Annes Old Links Golf Club on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, 14th, 15th and 16th August 1972. Entry Forms appeared in the June journal.

### Programme

Monday 14th August: Morning – 18 holes Stableford; Afternoon – Annual General Meeting at 2.30 pm.

Tuesday 15th August: 36 hole Medal; News of the World Cup (scratch); Senior Division (plus to 11); Junior Division (12 to 24); the Jubilee Cup (Team Prize off Handicap); 'The Coming of Age' Cup.

Wednesday 16th August: Morning – 18 hole Medal; Afternoon – Prize distribution 3 p.m.

### Handicaps

Section secretaries will be asked to verify the handicaps of all competitors from their records before the tournament. All handicaps must be based on the National Golf Union's handicapping system.

### Executive Committee

A meeting of the Executive Committee will be held at St. Annes Old Links Golf Club, on Sunday 13th August 1972, at approximately 5.30 p.m.

### Trophies

May I remind all holders of trophies from last year's tournament who are not taking part this year to ensure that these are returned to St. Annes Old Links Golf Club, St. Annes on Sea, Lancs. before Saturday 12th August.

### Annual Draw

May I remind members that all counterfoils and moneys should be returned to their Section secretary and NOT to me.

C. H. DIX

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# A Letter to the Editor

The Bungalow  
Blackmoor Farm  
Tarn Lane  
Leeds LS17 9  
12th May 1972

Dear Mr. Editor,

I would like to apologise, through you, to Mr. C. A. Moore of Middlesex for being one of the Greenkeepers who did not reply to his appeal for information about the problems caused by 'pop-up sprinklers'.

Before making any comments I would explain that the system we have at our 27 hole course is *automatic*. This does give a slightly different bearing, but, as the basic requirements are the same, the differences are academic.

There is no point in denying that problems are caused by these watering systems but, in my opinion, the advantages far outweigh the disadvantages. The first point is the time saved against manual watering. For years we had the task of heaving pipes and sprinklers about the course, only to find that golfers had turned them off or pulled them into a greenside bunker which was then full of water. You can appreciate the pleasure it gives to look out over the course on a hot dry day, secure in the thought that at nightfall watering will start, with no inconvenience to my staff, nor yet, more important, to the golfers themselves.

Now that time has been saved through not having to water manually, a little of this time can be put to extra fungicide treatment. It is going to cost a little more in additional materials, but golf to-day is a question of economics, so therefore these things must be taken into account if so called 'perfect' conditions are called for. Fears that fungal attacks will be extreme can be dispelled. A little thought and a balanced watering routine can reduce attacks to a minimum. Balancing the watering routine brings into action the local knowledge of the Greenkeeper and his observance of the peculiarities of each green.

For instance, our system works in sequence and on a pre-selected time, that is, watering commences at No. 1 green, waters for a specified time then switches to No. 2, repeats the cycle, then to No. 3, and so on. As each green varies in elevation; some being exposed to wind; some low lying in natural catchment areas; others shaded, I now know that for the best results the system needs to be operated roughly as follows:- No. 1 green 10 mins. No. 2 - 20 mins., No. 3 - 20 mins., No. 4 - 10 mins., No. 5 - 5 mins., No. 6 - 25mins., and so on. Balancing the watering gets us half-way to solving the problems of too soft greens, flooding, etc., Admittedly, to have a 'pop-up' system installed on an established course may mean the addition of extra drainage to problem areas, but the long term advantages are tremendous. This should also take care of black slime which basically must be a drainage problem.

With regard to thatching, this should not be entirely blamed on watering, as one should consider the general increase in use of nitrogenous fertilizers and the general desire for 'green' greens; therefore correction of this comes in the course of general turf management.

The one major complaint of our system is that each green was fitted to the designers requirements with 360° (full circle) pop-ups. This plays havoc with some of the steep greenside bunkers, and means that staff have to spend an extra hour in throwing back the sand. Now, wherever a unit has to be replaced we are trying to fit a part circle pop-up.

Another worry, that at first seemed immense, was wind blowing the water spray off the greens. Now we find that nature seems to compensate by turning and blowing in the opposite direction in a matter of days.

This letter only briefly touches upon the subject of pop-up sprinklers, but I hope it will reassure Mr. Moore that his problems are not as large as they seem. However, as all Greenkeepers seem to have a touch of the traditionalist about them I can only extend a sincere invitation to Mr. Moore if he is ever in this area, - please call in and have a peep at our pop-ups.

Yours sincerely,  
COLIN GEDDES  
Head Greenkeeper  
Moor Allerton Golf Club  
Leeds, 17

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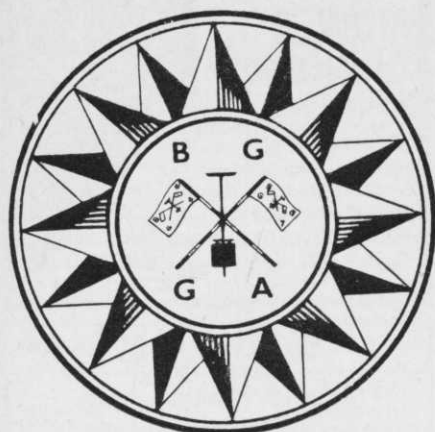
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# News



## from the Sections

### Special occasions

- July 27 East Midland Presidents v.  
Captains Match
- Aug. 14 )  
15 ) Annual Tournament  
16 )
- Sept. 12 ) Institute of Groundsmanship  
13 ) International Exhibition –  
14 ) Motspur Park  
19 ) Midland Section Autumn  
Tournament

## NORTH-EAST

*Chairman:*  
MR. J. SIMPSON

*By G. Jeffries*  
*Hon. Secretary:*  
55 Brackenfield Road,  
Framwell Gate Moor,  
Durham

### Spring competition

Our Spring competition was held on Thursday 20th April, on the course of Gosforth Golf Club, by kind permission of their Captain and Committee. *Results* over 18 holes were; J. Grainger (Durham City) for the best net score of 68, Salver and voucher. 2nd C. Baxter (Whitburn) 72, Putter and voucher. 3rd T. Nutman (Tynemouth) 74. 4th S. Graham (Newbiggin) 74 voucher. The winner of the Association Prize was R. Hinson 70.

Our Chairman, Mr. J. Simpson, welcomed

everyone present, and hoped that they had enjoyed their day at Bridle Path, he then introduced the Captain of the club, Mr. Anderson, who said a few kind words on our behalf, and very kindly presented the prizes. Mr. Simpson, on behalf of the North East Section, thanked the Captain and Committee for allowing us the use of the course, he then thanked the Steward and Stewardess for a very enjoyable meal, Mr. M. Runnacles and his staff for the condition of the course, this was heartily endorsed by all, thanks also to the Professional for the use of the caddy cars. May I thank Jack Simpson and Norman Fraser for their work with the cards, and also Tom Oliver for his work with the raffle, I also congratulate him on winning the first prize of a bottle of sherry from the raffle, well done Tom.

## NORTH-WEST

*Chairman:*  
J. GILLETT,  
(St Anne's  
Old Links)

*By H. M. Walsh*  
*Hon. Secretary:*  
Horrobin Cottage,  
Old Links Golf Club,  
Montserrat, Bolton,  
Lancs.

### Draw tickets

Will all members let me have counterfoils and monies by the date requested on the tickets, also please make P.O.'s and cheques payable to the North West Section, B.G.G.A. and not to me.

### Subscriptions

Subscriptions are now due for the 1972/73 year, please send them to the Treasurer as soon as possible.

### New members

We extend a warm welcome to the following new members and hope their association with the Section will be a happy one. R. Cook, Lowes Park Golf Club, Hilltop, Bury, Lancs., D. D. Clark, Royal Portrush Golf Club, Portrush, Co. Antrim, N. Ireland.

## MIDLAND

*Chairman:*  
G. HART  
(Gay Hill)

*By R. Goodwin*  
*Hon. Secretary:*  
4 Burton Old Road,  
Streethay, Lichfield,  
Staffs.

### A.G.M. and Summer tournament

The A.G.M. and Summer Tournament will take place at Habberley Golf Club, Kidderminster, on Monday 24th July.

The members of Habberley are again kindly providing the prizes for this event and I do

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Played at the Brockenhurst Course, the Hampshire Rogues Golfing Society Championship resulted in a win for Mr. Thomas Graham, of West Lane, Hayling Island, who is the HEAD GREENKEEPER for the Municipal Course at Hayling Island. His morning score of 73, and afternoon 71 won for him the Maurice Jack Championship Cup, for the event, and here Mr. Maurice Jack the well-known Winchester Turf Accountant is seen presenting the trophy to Mr. Graham (right).



hope for a good turnout of Greenkeepers. Please send your entries to me by 14th July.

### Autumn tournament

The Autumn Tournament will be held over the Stratford on Avon Golf Club course on Tuesday 19th September, by kind permission of the Captain and Directors. Entries please by the 4th September.

### New members

We welcome to the section B. F. Ashby, Assistant Greenkeeper to the Stratford on Avon Golf Club.

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## SOUTHERN

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Chairman:  
C. A. MOORE  
(Stanmore)

By F. W. Ford  
Hon. Secretary:  
68 Salcombe Gardens,  
Mill Hill, N.W.7.  
Tel: 01-959 2847

### The George

All future lectures etc, commencing Wednesday 3rd October, will be held at *The George, George Court, Adelphi, London W.C.2* (Tel: 01-839 4012) in the Adelphi Bar, nearest Underground station and Main Line station - the Strand and Charing Cross.

### The Spring tournament

The Annual Spring Tournament was played over 36 holes on the Maylands Golf Course in Essex by kind permission of the Captain and Committee of the Club.

The weather was laid on, the course was in magnificent condition thanks to Phil Staines and his staff and despite the journal troubles there were 55 entries.

Our thanks to Mr. Turner the restaurant manager for the excellent meals and to the Captain, Mr. Reynolds, for presenting the prizes the details of which are as follows:-

#### Best Morning

B. Richardson (Effingham) 73 net

#### Best Afternoon

W. Machin (Addington Court) 73 net

#### 36 Scratch Prize

R. Tempest (Hartsbourne) 75-74 = 149

#### 1st Year off Scratch

1st D. Jones (West Essex) 164

2nd L. Pickford (Hartsbourne) 165

3rd J. M. Huish (Three Rivers) 168

4th A. Finnie (Shooters Hill) 173

5th D. Anderson (Malden) 195

#### Over 60

18 holes in the morning

1st J. Ness (Croham Hurst) 79 net

2nd G. Piggott (Henley) 79 net

### 36 Aggregate

1st	T. E. Price (Whitewebbs)	70-74 = 144 net
2nd	R. Plain (Beaconsfield)	70-76 = 146 net
3rd	A. Collis (Sonning)	67-79 = 146 net
4th	L. Coyte (Romford)	75-75 = 150 net
5th	F. Hayter (Enfield)	76-75 = 151 net
6th	D. Major (Betchworth Park)	74-79 = 153 net
7th	T. Mitchell (Maidenhead)	77-77 = 154 net
8th	C. E. Ryan (Boyce Hill)	76-78 = 154 net
9th	M. Claydon (Beaconsfield)	76-78 = 154 net
10th	T. Foster (Maidenhead)	75-79 = 154 net
11th	W. Wilkenson (Old Ford)	76-80 = 156 net
12th	P. Whitehead (Shooters Hill)	76-81 = 157 net
13th	E. Brown (Beaconsfield)	80-79 = 159 net
14th	I. Smith (Limpsfield Chart)	78-81 = 159 net

Thanks and congratulations are due to David Craig and Philip Marshall for sorting out the above. The other welcome helpers were Bill Holloway, J. Shaw, B. Tomlin, and Maurice Emm. John Field deserves a prize for his efforts with the ball sweep and for getting to Maylands so early, I think he slept under the billiard table!

Proceeds from the ball sweep (£7) went to the Benevolent Fund.

### Prize donors

I would like to thank the following firms who contributed towards our prize giving:- Messrs. Ransomes, Sims & Jefferies, R. C. Craig, Pattissons & Co., Flymo Limited, Huxley Garden Machinery, Webbs Lawn Mowers Ltd., Sutton Seeds, C. H. Pugh Ltd., Maxwell Hart Ltd., Kingston House Mowers, May & Baker, T. Parker & Sons, Cameron Irrigation, Universal Mat Co., Elvin Pennants and J. Gibbs Ltd.

### Autumn tournament

The Autumn tournament will be held at the Maidenhead Golf Club on Wednesday, 6th September 1972, closing date - 21st August. Entries to reach me by that date, stating name, club and handicap of themselves and partner.

### Subscriptions

For 1972/73 were due on 1st May. Members please check to see that they have paid. The new rates as from the 1st May are as follows Class A (Head Greenkeeper) £2. Class B (First Assistant) £1.50. Class C (Assistant and Apprentices) £1 and Class E £2.50.

Thanks went to members of the trade, Mr. Pender and Mr. Forbes of Messrs. Stewarts and Co., Mr. W. Burt of Sissis, and a big thank you to our good friends Messrs. Ransomes for the new flags that they presented us with, for our competition days.

### Autumn tournament

Our Autumn tournament will be held on Thursday 7th September 1972, on the Ravensworth Golf Course, by kind permission of their Captain and Committee, this will be a 27-hole event, teeing off approximately 9.0 am.

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