

MOSS ON SPORT TURFS

by R. L. Morris,
Senior Horticulturist,
Levington Research Station

(Continued from July)

The application rate for Hi-Lite Mosskiller is one ounce per square yard and the physical form has been designed so that the same setting is used on spreaders as with "Greenkeeper 2 in", "Greenkeeper 1 in" and "Combined Turf Fertiliser and Weed-killer". Mosskiller can also be applied accurately through the Cyclone Spreader.

The short-term effect of Hi-Lite Mosskiller is rapid blackening and death to the moss, but unlike conventional lawn sand, its action is much kinder to grasses. Our phytotoxicity experiments have indicated that rate for rate, we have increased the safety margin considerably.

After the use of Hi-Lite Mosskiller a very good dark green colour is achieved and our experiments and trials confirmed by usage on sports turf, show that this is sustained for some 6-8 weeks.

When used for moss control in the period late March—early April, the time most people become conscious of moss invasion, not only will the moss be cleared up, but growth produced as a result of the nitrogen component forms a good base for the summer feeding programme.

The physical advantages of Hi-Lite Mosskiller—lightweight, controlled process of manufacture—all lead to improved application characteristics, particularly through a spreader, with the result that a much nicer product to handle and much safer product to the grass has been produced.

Coupled with aeration, regular light scarifying will control fibre development and prevent the build up of a spongy water retentive surface. The secret of scarifying is little and often. This avoids the stress that the grass is put to if only two mammoth on-slaughts are made, one in spring and one in autumn.

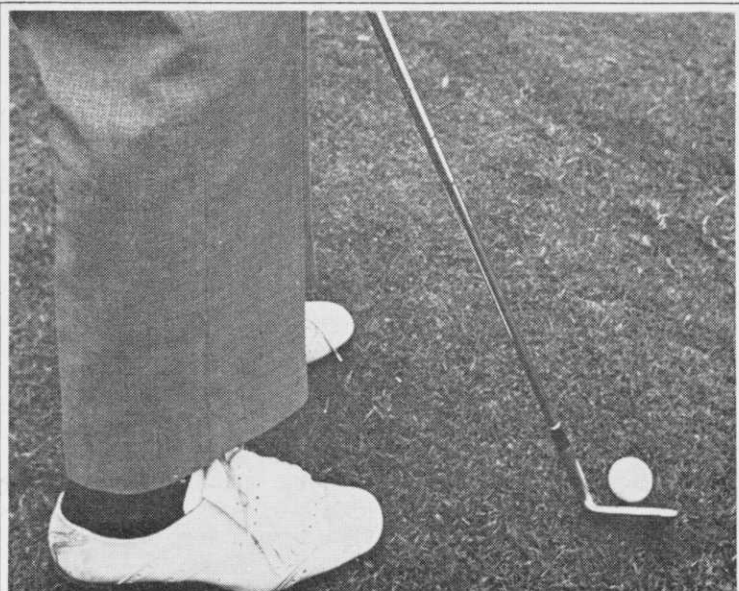
Many chemicals have been used for moss control over the years, but the most successful has been lawn sand, that very effective combination of ferrous sulphate and ammonium sulphate in powder form. Mosses are scorched out by lawn sand, an osmotic effect brought about by these two soluble salts going into solution in the surface water, so these dry formulations work best when applied under moist conditions.

One contributory factor in the success of lawn sand is the fact that nitrogen is supplied by the ammonium sulphate.

When coupled with good management practice, the results from lawn sand are very good. There is one point to watch with lawn sand: chemically it is acid forming. This can be used to advantage if a high pH needs to be lowered, but excessive use of lawn sand under other circumstances can drastically lower pH to an unacceptable level. If this happens biological activity in the upper soil profile is affected, resulting in the build up of hard fibre.

The biggest drawback with lawn sand is its physical form; a duty powder, very dense and unpleasant to work with, leaving a nasty, metallic taste in the mouth. Many groundsmen experience difficulty in applying lawn sand both hand and with spreaders. Packing down in the hopper makes a spreader very hard to push.

The physical problems associated with lawn sand often lead to mistakes in application, particularly with hand application where there is a tendency to spot treat and this leads to over-



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application. Under many conditions this can result in severe burning and the lawn may be seriously damaged.

Damage can also occur when using a spreader—usually faulty use of the on/off control and lack of co-ordination. This happens particularly at the start and finish of runs where quite large patches of damage can be produced. As lawn sand is very free running a quite considerable pile of material will run out if the shut off is not closed when the spreader is stationary.

At Levington we have worked on the problem of moss control over the years and are now able to offer the groundsman the results of our endeavours in the introduction of Hi-Lite Mosskiller. Hi-Lite Mosskiller is a lightweight granular product; yet another of our increasing family of lightweight peat-based speciality fertilisers.

NEWS

J. G. VERLAQUE'S APPOINTMENT TO PIPECRAFT

Pipcraft Limited is delighted to announce the appointment of John G. Verlaque as Sales Director. No stranger to irrigation, Mr. Verlaque represented a major international irrigation company, throughout U.K.—latterly, as Sales Manager, and also had Sales involvement in the E.E.C. countries. Born and educated in East Africa, Mr. Verlaque pursued an agricultural career, with the intention of returning to the family farm in Kenya, and he obtained both National Diplomas in Agriculture and Dairying. The political scene, however, intervened and the commercial world seemed an appropriate challenge. "Irrigation schemes, well designed and installed provide challenge and satisfaction to the designer and the end user".

August



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Acclaimed by all associated with International groundsmanship as the only exhibition that gives you the opportunity of seeing and discussing improved turf culture techniques—new and synthetic playing surfaces for Sports and Leisure Centres—revolutionary machinery for turf aeration and grass cutting on cricket squares and golf courses. Automated irrigation systems, seed, fertilizers, chemical and spraying equipment. All are part of the interest packed Groundsmanship Exhibition held at the University of London Athletics Ground, Mootspur Park, New Malden, Surrey, between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. on the 10th and 11th September and 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. on 12th September. Direct trains from Waterloo to Mootspur Park Station. Road travel on A3 Portsmouth Road turn off at New Malden Roundabout. The Exhibition is at Mootspur Park by kind permission of the University of London.

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SERVICE

The Contract Maintenance Service Scheme was introduced to ensure that owners of Toro equipment receive maximum benefit from investment in high work-rate machinery by continuous trouble-free operation through preventive maintenance and operator product knowledge.

It is based on the belief that the breakdown of well designed quality machines is most often due to causes which can be anticipated, such as—

- * Lack of operator knowledge
- * Incorrect use
- * Insufficient maintenance
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- * Misalignments
- * Lack of lubrication
- * Infrequent attention to filters
- * Dirt in fuel system
- * Bad adjustment of cutters—usually overtight
- * Insufficient or incorrect engine oil
- * Poor engine compression
- * Weak Battery
- * Electrical faults
- * Undetected wear
- * Incorrect tyre pressures.

Any of these situations can cause annoyance and inconveniences and can affect dramatically standards of

performance and running costs in terms of fuel, spare parts and overhauls.

Special Arrangement

A special arrangement is included for subscribers requiring spares, and any urgent orders received before 2 p.m. on weekdays will be forwarded the same day if they can be sent by post.

Facilities for Saturday collection of spare parts from the Watford stores section between 9 a.m. and noon—apart from 8.30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday to Friday—is another new advantage.

Provision of a Saturday emergency field service is one of the major benefits for subscribers to the Contract Maintenance Service scheme being operated by Toro (London) Sales and Service this year.

New Benefits Announced

The Saturday Emergency Service applies to calls received before midday on Friday. The service is designed to assist Toro users with genuine emergencies to fulfil important week-end grasscutting obligations.

We have pleasure in announcing
the appointment of

JOHN VERLAQUE

as Technical Director

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The objective of monthly contract maintenance visits by Toro (London) Field Service Engineers is to tackle any problems before they arise.

Operator Knowledge

During each monthly visit, the Toro engineers carry out the following duties:

- ★ Check routine maintenance check lists
- ★ Make monthly adjustments against check lists
- ★ Check types and use of oil
- ★ Test electrical components
- ★ Test engine compression
- ★ Check torque loadings on drive systems and cylinders
- ★ Test and adjust hydraulic system
- ★ Give guidance for increased customer satisfaction and assist with entries in the service history book of the machine.

- ★ Encourage better user facilities if required
- ★ Ensure new operators have the opportunity for comprehensive instruction in use of the equipment.

Although operator knowledge and correct application of Toro equipment is gained at the time of delivery and installation, current rate of staff turnover can often place a new operator in a difficult position.

A further advantage of the scheme is that during a Contract Maintenance visit it may be found that a machine may require attention under the terms of the Toro 12-month guarantee associated with faulty materials or workmanship. Such work can then be carried out and cost of parts and labour are not charged.

Details of the scheme are available from **Toro (London) Sales and Service**, at Watford.

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Special Occasions

- Sept. 1 CARL BRETHERTON
BOWL—Handsworth.
- 6 Southern Section Buffet/
Dance—West Essex G.C.
- 11 Welsh Section, President's
Shield—Pennard G.C.
- 11 Southern Section Autumn
Tournament — Burnham
Beeches Golf Club.
- 18 East Midland Autumn Golf
Tournament — Chilwell
Manor G.C.
- 18 Midland Section Autumn
Tournament—Handsworth
G.C.
- 26 North-East Section Autumn
Tournament 27-hole—Tee
Off 9 a.m.—Tyneside G.C.
- Sept. 30 B.G.G.A. 1974 ANNUAL
- Oct. 1 TOURNAMENT and
& 2 A.G.M.—Isle of Purbeck
Golf Club, Studland, Swan-
age, Dorset.
- 9 Southern Section Secretary's
Match—Stoke Poges G.C.
- 10 North-West Section Au-
tumn Tournament—Priest-
bury G.C.

Southern Section

Chairman:
F. W. FORD
(South Herts.)

Hon. Secretary:
F. W. FORD
68 Salcombe Gardens,
Mill Hill, London, NW7
Tel: 959 2847

A.G.M.

Details of the 1974 A.G.M. held at the Dulwich & Sydenham Hill Golf Club on Wednesday 5th June are as follows:—

The Minutes of the last A.G.M. were read by the Secretary and signed as being correct by David Craig, presiding in the absence of the President. Arising from the Minutes, the Secretary confirmed that the Autumn and Winter Lectures would be held at the Whitbreads Sports & Social Club, in Chiswell Street, E.C.1. The Section and Benevolent Accounts were adopted on the proposal of C. A. Moore and seconded by E. W. Johnson.

Election of Officers

President—

Jack Wallis-Arthur.

Vice Presidents—

D. M. Craig, F. W. Hawtree, C. P. Simpson, J. Field, K. J. Hemingway, F. Brittan, P. A. Marshall, K. Thomas, V. L. Waeland, J. M. Thomas and J. Varney.

Chairman—

F. W. Ford.

Vice Chairman—

C. E. Ryan.

Committee—

D. H. Major, D. S. Gould, W. F. Machin, C. E. Ryan, J. Kirkpatrick, R. Tempest, D. J. Jones, E. W. Johnson, D. G. Heath, H. Brown and M. C. Owen.

Executive Representative—

D. H. Major.

Hon. Sec. & Treasurer—

F. W. Ford.

A.O.B.

It was decided to continue holding the A.G.M. at Golf Clubs with 18 holes in the afternoon. It was also proposed, seconded and carried that there should be no best morning and best afternoon prize in the Spring Tournament 36 hole Medal. The object being to simplify the allocation of prizes under the one prize only rule. 20 members showed interest in David Heath's enquiry into a possible trip to New Orleans in 1975.

The Secretary promised to publish a list of 1975 tournaments and other Section activities.

The 1974 A.G.M. closed with a vote of thanks to David Craig for taking the chair. I now understand that our President is ill in Barts Hospital. Get well soon Jack.

A late May journal and the 5th June clashing with other events, resulted in a poor entry for the afternoon's golf. However, a very enjoyable day was had by everyone, thanks mainly to John Kirkpatrick and Dad. Many thanks Dad and please convey our sincere appreciation for all the friendly hospitality we received from everyone at Dulwich. Thanks also to our friends in the trade, Dave, Phil and Maurice and to Bonzo for taking over the raffle and making a profit of £12.80p. We are grateful to Chipmans for 'chipping' in a Fiver towards the prize-giving and to Bob Plain and John Kirkpatrick for generously donating a bottle of Scotch each to the Benevolent Fund Raffle.

Results:—

1st J. McWilliam (West Byfleet)	68	Net
2nd W. F. Machin (Addington Court)	70	..
3rd R. Tempest (Darenth Valley)	71	..

New Members

A warm welcome to the new members whose names are listed below:—
F. V. COLLYER (New Zealand)

M. J. Smith (Porters Park) and George Norton of **Huxley's Garden Machinery**. A warm welcome also to KENNETH DOTT who joins the Southern Section from the North West.

Congratulations

To Adam Finnie who leaves the Blackheath Golf Club to take over the Villarceaux Country Club in France. Keep in touch Adam!

Subscriptions

I am still receiving wrong amounts, occasionally cash in ordinary mail (cheques or Postal Orders only please) and members enquiring the sub rates:

Head Greenkeepers (Class A)	£4.00
First Assistants (.. B)	£3.00
Assistants (.. C)	£2.00
Apprentices (.. C)	£2.00
Trade Members (.. E)	£2.50

Entrance Fee for new members—50p.
Subscriptions for all members are due on 1st MAY each year.

F. W. Ford.

South Coast Section

Chairman:
E. R. JAMES

Secretary:
N. M. STIMSON
North Wilts. G.C.
Devizes.

Members are reminded that their subscriptions for the year 1974/75 should have been paid, and I shall be pleased to receive outstanding subscriptions at once.

We welcome to the Section the following Honorary Members and hope their association with us will be a long and happy one:—

A. KITCH (Maxwell M. Hart
(London) Ltd.).
M. C. EMM (H. Pattison & Co.,
Ltd.).

N. M. Stimson (Mrs.)

Hon. Secretary.

c/o North Wilts Golf Club

Bishop's Cannings,

DEVIZES, Wiltshire SN10 2LP.

North-West Section

Chairman:
E. WALSH, ESQ.

Hon. Secretary:
H. M. WALSH, ESQ.,
Tel: 40050

Obituary

It is with deep regret I have to inform members of the sad passing of one of the Section's oldest members, Charlie Brassington of Crompton & Royton Golf Club.

I have known Charlie for about 30 years, other members may have known him longer, such as B. Ellis, W. Sumner, A. Fyles to mention but a few, but I think we would all agree he was a good man and a good Greenkeeper and the greenkeeping world is now the poorer. On behalf of all members I wish to extend to Mrs. Brassington and family the Section's deepest sympathy in their sad loss.

Autumn Tournament

The Autumn Tournament will be played over the Priestbury Golf Club course on Thursday 10th October 1974 by kind permission of the Captain and Council. Details nearer the time but entries as soon as possible.

New Members

We welcome to the Section the following new members and hope their association with us will be a happy one.

P. Whalley—Nelson Municipal Golf Course, Nelson, Lancs.

J. Leigh—Manchester Golf Club, Hopwood Cottage, Middleton, Lancs.

H. M. Walsh (Hon. Secretary)

Northern Section

Chairman:
J. SCOTT
Wetherby Golf Club

Hon. Secretary:
W. HEELES
7 Tentergate Close,
Knaresborough, Yorks.
Tel: K'boro 3851

President's Prize

The President's Prize was played for at the Leeds Golf Club, Cobble

Hall, Leeds on Wednesday 12th June 1974 by kind permission of the Club Committee and Members.

Some 40 members turned out for the occasion, the weather conditions were glorious. The golf course was in excellent condition and the Tournament was a great success, as it always is. Many thanks to our President W. (Bill) Mountain.

The winners were:

1st Div. First C. Geddes, Second H. Marshall, Third D. Storey.

2nd Div. First H. Shaw, Second A. Burge, Third R. Smith.

Midlands Section

Chairman:
G. HART

Hon. Secretary:
R. GOODWIN
2 Greenkeepers' Cottage,
Ashridge Golf Club,
Berkhamsted, Herts.

Day trip to Toro

A day trip to the Toro factory at Darlington has been arranged for Tuesday 12th November.

The coach will leave the car park off Broad Street, Birmingham between the Birmingham Civic Centre and Bingley Hall at 7 a.m. There is ample car parking room here.

We should arrive at the Toro factory between 10.30 a.m. and 11.00 a.m.

The coach expenses will come out of Section funds.

Please let me know if you wish to go, by the end of October at the latest.

R. Goodwin, Hon. Secretary.

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