

Sand plan for healthy turf

A new management programme for greens

Since World War II, we have seen play on some nearby golf courses go from 20,000 rounds a year to over 100,000 rounds a year. The pattern has been the same throughout the country. This has required changed maintenance practices, principally an increased use of nitrogen fertilizer and water to grow more grass in order to keep up with wear. Because the resulting grass is more succulent and more attractive to insects and fungi, increased amounts of control chemicals have been used. Increased irrigation and increased play have aggravated compaction, which is relieved by use of coring machines.

We now use maximum amounts of fertilizer on greens, but play continues to increase. What direction can we take now? In considering this question, we felt that a different approach to putting green maintenance was worth considering.

Although great progress has been made in putting green management over the past 25 years, the major problems continue to include thatch and compaction. Thatch provides a reservoir for diseases and both thatch and compaction limit air, water and root movement in soil. Coring, to relieve the problem, creates a serious weed problem with *Poa annua*, goose-grass and crabgrass.

Our solution to these problems is to provide light and frequent top-dressing with sand in the 0.05 to 1.0 mm range. This sand will drop out of sight and the golfer will never know the green has been dressed. Just enough sand is applied to mingle with the stolons and prevent a thatch layer from forming. Coring is eliminated because compaction is reduced. Bentgrass seed is added to the top-dressing

About the Author:

Dr. John H. Madison was born in the Midwest, raised in New England and received his Ph.D. in plant physiology at Cornell University, New York. He came to the University of California, Davis campus in 1953 where he has worked continuously with turf-grasses. He is the author of two major texts; "Principles of Turf-grass Culture" and "Practical Turfgrass Management" as well as many other publications.

so there is continual crowding of weeds and rapid replacement of turf whenever bare areas occur. For the sake of economy, seed, herbicides, insecticides, and fertilizer are added to the top-dressing so all operations are combined.

When the program is begun on an existing green, there may be some immediate response if the green is badly thatchbound. If the green is the ordinary layer cake of thatch and sand layers occasionally pierced by aerifier holes, no immediate results should be expected. However, by the end of the second growing season there should be noticeable weed suppression and good general vigour. Improved rooting should begin to result in a turf more tolerant of stress.

The program

We top-dress every three weeks with the following materials.

Sand-0.05-1.0 mm
(- 18 + 200
screen)

[Continued on facing Page]

[Sand Plan/continued]

Nitrogen source
to provide Nat

K_2SO_4

Dolomitic lime
(acid soils or
dolomitic
gypsum (soils
above pH 6.5)

(If dolomites are
not available
add Epsom
salts

Zinc chelate or
mixed minor
element chelates

Iron chelate

Phosphorus source
to provide P at
Bentgrass seed

When pesticides are used, we add them as wettable powders to give the recommended rate. We alternated between the insecticides Diazinon, a somewhat systemic phosphate, and Sevin, a carbamate. Depending on season and disease, we have used thiram, Dexon, captan, Koban, and Daconil 2728. ®

How the program has worked so far.

1. Amount and Frequency of Top-dressing: This is critical. The goal is to apply just enough sand just often enough so thatch is mixed with sand but a good cushion or mat is left above the sand.

We apply 3 cubic feet of sand per 1,000 square feet at three-week intervals, 15 times a year. This is a little over $\frac{1}{2}$ inch of sand per year.

2. Top-dressing Sand: Sand, as specified (- 18 200), will drop from sight as soon as it dries, or it may be washed in by turning on the irrigation system for a minute or two. If the application is not even, one may need to drag or broom it in. The golfer should never know the green was top-dressed. Keep looking for a good sand.

3. Top-dressing Practice: We find that top-dressing machines apply material evenly at low rates. We figure

on adding $\frac{1}{28}$ " of sand at each treatment.

If mixing top-dressing requires buying special equipment, the sand and fertility programs can be separated during the initial 2-4 year test period. For good mixing, the sand should be slightly damp.

4. Coring: A coring machine can be well used to break the interface at the first top-dressing. After that the coring machine should be prohibited. It is no longer needed and its use spoils the benefit of weed control.

5. Weed control: Most weed seeds require light to germinate. Top-dressing buries them and replaces them with grass seed.

6. Disease Control: Top-dressing should reduce inoculum by burying it. We have had Pythium on our aprons that failed to enter the experimental area. Top-dressing areas, in shade, continue to get Fusarium patch during long periods of cold, wet over-cast.

7. Insect Control: Without thatch, it is more difficult for caterpillars to burrow and easier for birds to find them, but control is still necessary. Insecticides in the top-dressing are effective.

8. Mineral Nutrition: Different sands are more or less mineral rich. The minerals added are for assurance—actual need may be less. When more nitrogen is used, other minerals should be increased in proportion.

9. Organic Matter: No organic matter is used in the top-dressing. This program is to control excess organic matter—thatch. Grass creates its own organic matter which adds to the cation exchange capacity of the soil.

With grateful acknowledgement to USGA Green Section RECORD a publication on Turf Management by the U.S. Golf Association.

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NEWS

WITH the darker evenings now with us for a few months, time perhaps to do a little reading. We have just received the latest list of an organisation specialising in selling books on agricultural botany and gardening. Readers wishing to receive a copy should write to Lesley Enstone, 2 Elm Cottage, Aldenham, Watford, Herts. WD2 8AN.

AVAILABLE for Section Meetings during the coming winter is an aeration machinery slide lecture from Ransomes aimed at groups of Groundsmen and Greenkeepers. The slide lecture lasts approximately 45 minutes and interested members should contact John Wilson, Sales Manager of Ransomes' grass machinery division at Ipswich.

THE Horticultural Division of Cannock Fertilisers Ltd. announce the appointment of Mr. Ian McJennett as Technical Representative in South Wales. His home is in Penarth and he is particularly well known in sports circles. Mr. Roy Bartlett, who lives near Stroud (Glos.) takes on additional territory comprising Cornwall, Devon, Dorset and Somerset. A range of Toro grasscutting equipment for turf management at the new Bar Hill Golf Club has been bought to prepare the 18-hole course. The course, near Cambridge, is part of the first new residential development and amenity projects undertaken by the Trafalgar House organisation.

The fleet of machines includes a Toro Greensmaster 3 ride-on triplex greens mower, a Trojan 3 ride-on triple rotary with 60in. cut, a Toro 70in. Professional ride-on triplex cylinder machine and an 11ft. Toro Super Pro ride-on gang unit. The machines were supplied by Bartram Mowers Ltd. of Norwich.

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Details of course and grant schemes from The Principal, Cheshire College of Agriculture, Reaseheath, Nantwich Cheshire CW5 6DF.

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Secretary, Moor Hall Golf Club Limited, Moor Hall Park, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands B75 6LN.

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Senior post

READERS will be interested to learn that Mr. R. Bradley ex North-West Section of the B.G.G.A. has recently been nominated senior Vice-President of the New Zealand Golf Greenkeepers Association.

AGM report

THE Minutes of the 57th Annual Meeting of the Association, together with the Income and Expenditure Account, will be published in the next issue of the magazine.

(Re-Advertisement)

HEAD GREENKEEPER

To supervise the detailed finishing and maintenance of a 7,000 yard championship golf course almost completed at Dougalston, Milngavie.

The man appointed will require to have wide experience in all aspects of golf course maintenance, and should be accustomed to the supervision of green-keeping staff.

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Applications giving full details of experience, etc., should be addressed to:

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SECTION NEWS

A nationwide round-up of news from the branches

South Coast Section

Chairman:
E. R. JAMES

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

ON behalf of all our members, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who contributed towards the success of the 1974 Annual Tournament.

Members are reminded that the next winter lecture will be held at Alresford Golf Club on Tuesday, 7th January, 1975 at 7 p.m. The guest speaker will be Mr. I. E. Flowerday, the Toro Irrigation Products Manager of Wright Rain Ltd.

Our autumn meeting was held at Parkstone Golf Club on 28th October 1974. Fifty-two members and guests attended and they all enjoyed a leisurely day as play had to be restricted to 18 holes of golf because of the recent change to Winter Time. However this did not appear to detract from the success of the meeting, and again the weather was kind to us.

Our chairman thanked the captain and committee for the courtesy of the course and clubhouse facilities, and also expressed thanks to his own green staff and the indoor staff who looked after us so well. Mrs. King provided an excellent lunch. Mr. James paid tribute to the efforts of Mrs. Stimson and

Messrs. E. Fox, A. Jeffery and P. Marshall, who all helped in the organisation of the meeting and he also thanked the members of the trade and others who had contributed so generously to our prize list and raffle.

The secretary then took the opportunity to address the meeting and drew attention to forthcoming events and the recent decisions of the section committee. She also mentioned that Mr. Ian Greenfield, the past chairman, wished her to convey his best wishes for a successful meeting and his most grateful thanks for the Parker pen presentation gift. His health was improving gradually and he hoped he would continue to get better so that he could attend the meetings next year.

The chairman then called upon Mr. R. L. Shakeshaft, the captain of Parkstone Golf Club to say a few words and present the prizes.

The prize winners were: R. Plain and B. Chase (set of head covers) 42 pts.; E. West and Mr. Draper Flymo (cup and gloves) 39; R. Rogers and A. C. Evans (cigarette lighters) 38; E. Brown and D. Stewart (propelling pencils) 38; J. Hamilton Stutt and W. J. Knowles (bottles of whisky) 37; F. Ainsworth and E. Allward (pair of secateurs) 37; B. Emberley and A. Jones (hand warmers) 37.

We are pleased to welcome two more members, and we hope their association with us will be a long and happy one: B. Ramsdin (Vice-President); E. W. Moseley (Blackmoor Golf Club). We also hope that Ian Rickman (previously at Ferndown) is enjoying the change of scene at Bramshott Hill Golf Club.

Southern Section

Chairman:

F. W. FORD
(South Herts.)

Hon. Secretary:

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

PRAYERS were answered and umbrellas remained unfurled on Wednesday, 9th October for the annual 12 a side match between the Southern Section and the A.G.C.S. at the Stoke Poges Golf Club. Handicaps being reasonably equal the match was played off scratch.

Going into lunch 3½—2½ up served as an appetiser to a first class meal and the 8—4 in the afternoon's singles resulted in the most conclusive win of the series so far.

We have now notched 5—3 on the Challenge Trophy. Well done team and better luck next year. Fergus, perhaps

we had better play off handicap next time!!

A warm welcome to the following new members: R. Lansbury (Old Fold); M. Sperring & B. Kenneally (Upminster); L. Harris, F. R. Spicer, C. D. Wakefield & S. R. Whittaker (Frilford Heath); B. Richardson (Fisons); F. W. Kimber (Hugh Page (Sussex) Ltd.); and D. Ashford and R. Howard of Chipman Ltd.

The first meeting at Whitbreads on 16th October proved to be a very successful evening. Firstly because we had R. L. Morris, Senior Horticulturist, Levington Research Station with us on this occasion to talk on some aspects of chemicals and secondly we had a good attendance of 70 in a room capable of holding as many more?

Among them. we were all delighted

[Turn to Page 28]

Foursomes

Southern Section

R. Tempest (Darenth Valley)	& M. Owen (Roehampton)	0
B. Payne (Burnham Beeches)	& G. Hayes (South Herts)	½
D. H. Major (Betchworth Pk)	& R. Plain (Beaconsfield)	1
G. Payne (Maidenhead)	& H. Brown (Home Park)	1
W. F. Machin (Addington Ct)	& J. Kendall (Stoke Poges)	1
F. W. Ford (South Herts)	& S. Taylor (Fulwell)	0

A.G.C.S.		
A. Heron (Ashridge)	& D. L. Gould (Hayling)	1
A. J. Acres (Stoke Poges)	& J. M. Ritchie (Leatherhead)	½
J. Marshall (Bristol & Clifton)	& C. Howarth (I.O.W.G.U.)	0
J. Crowther (Hallamshire)	& R. Griffiths (Sandy Lodge)	0
A. R. Bird (Basingstoke)	& K. Chaunby (West Hill)	0
J. R. Adair (Beaconsfield)	& M. Dorey (Brookmans Pk)	1

—

3½

—

—

2½

—

Singles

Southern Section

R. Tempest	1	v
M. Owen	0	v
B. Payne	1	v
G. Hayes	0	v
D. H. Major	1	v
R. Plain	1	v
G. Payne	1	v
H. Brown	1	v
S. Taylor	1	v
J. Kendall	0	v
W. F. Machin	1	v
F. W. Ford	0	v

A.G.C.S.

A. Heron	0
D. L. Gould	1
A. J. Acres	0
J. M. Ritchie	1
J. Marshall	0
C. Haworth	0
R. Griffiths	0
J. Crowther	0
A. R. Bird	0
M. Dorey	1
K. Chaunby	0
J. R. Adair	1

—

8

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4

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Match Winners Southern Section 11½—6½

Southern Section

[From Page 27]

to see past Chairman Jock Glass and past Superintendent St. Andrews, John Campbell. John, now a resident in the South, told me that he intends to join the Southern Section and we hope to see him at many more of our meetings. Congratulations on your new appointment, John, and best wishes from us all.

Aided by projector slides, Bob Morris talked effortlessly on chemicals, methods of spraying and use of spraying equipment etc. He stressed the importance of not taking any liberties with chemicals, of reading instructions on containers carefully and wearing protective clothing. He also said that the Ministry of Agriculture, Fish and Food "A" book should be a must in every Head Greenkeeper's library.

Question time revealed that March is the month for spraying Veronica, that deterioration of stored chemicals is negligible providing containers are in good condition, that it is good practice to date containers when storing, and that fungicides have a longer lasting effect as wettable powder than as a possible liquid fungicide.

The totally irrelevant slide which had supposedly slipped in, was shown again by request, much to the obvious appreciation of one and all. 'Who mentioned thatch?' The proceeds from the concluding Southern Section Benevolent Fund Raffle organised by "Bonzo" totalled £8.70.

Northern Section

Chairman:

J. SCOTT

Wetherby Golf Club

Hon. Secretary:

W. HEELES

7 Tentergate Close,
Knaresborough, Yorks.

Tel: K'boro 3851

THIS year the Invitation Tournament was played at the Ganton Golf Club, by kind permission of the committee.

Twenty-five members with their guests took part in what started out to be a very wet and nasty afternoon, however the rain did cease and the sun shone for

us all to play and enjoy the amenities of a golf course in the very best of condition. The eventual winners were: D. Ward and N. Whitehead, Harrogate Golf Club, on a card play-off from A. Robertshaw and A. Cowman, Ilkley Golf Club.

Once again I would like to offer my thanks on behalf of all who took part to the Committee and Members for allowing us the courtesy of the Course and Clubhouse for the afternoon and evening.

Autumn Tournament

The Annual Autumn Tournament of the Section took place on Wednesday, 16th October at Alwoodley Golf Club. Fifty-six members attended, a very good turn-out once again. Thanks are extended to the committee and members for allowing us the courtesy of their course and clubhouse, and we must not forget our friend, Hugh Marshall, for the excellent condition of the course and, last but not least, the Steward and his wife for the very good meal they provided for us, and also the members who donated to the prize list. Also many thanks to our friend, Peter Wyatt, from Pattisons for all the help he gave in issuing the cards and recording scores. Thanks, Peter.

Winners: 1st Div. Scratch—D. Ward. 1st, C. Ramsden; 2nd, C. Geddes; 3rd, W. Heeles; 4th, D. Storey. 2nd Div. 1st, D. Carter; 2nd, J. L. Grierson; 3rd, R. Johnson; 4th, C. Garnett; Vice-President's Prize: 1st, J. Grierson; 2nd, F. Readman.

The following Members' Handicaps have been adjusted:

D. Carter 24 to 18

J. L. Grierson 21 to 17

Forthcoming Event

The Annual Dinner will take place at the Oakdale Golf Club, Oakdale, Harrogate, on Friday, 13th December 1974 at 7.15 for 8 p.m. The Menu will be as follows: melon, oxtail soup, roast turkey and chipolata, french beans, cauliflower, fruit salad and ice cream, coffee, cheese and biscuits. Cabaret. £2 per head plus gratuities.

North-West Section

Chairman:
E. WALSH, ESQ.

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

OUR thanks are due to the captain and council of Prestbury Golf Club, Cheshire, for their kindness in granting us the courtesy of their course and facilities of the club house on the occasion of our Autumn Tournament on 10th October. Our thanks also to Mr. Allan, the captain, for the warm welcome he extended to us and also for presenting the prizes in the evening, to the numerous prize donors both private, and our friends in the trade, to Messrs. Vaughan, Wyatt, and Faulkener for their great assistance in seeing to the cards, meal tickets, and monies, etc., to Mrs. Hays for the excellent meals provided, the bar staff, and to our friend and colleague, Mr. J. Leonard and his staff for the excellent condition of the course and to the Section's committee for their great work in helping with the smooth running of the tournament, and to the members themselves for the excellent turnout, one of the best on record. Thank you, gentlemen.

Prize winners as follows, all over 27 holes: Scratch Prize: E. Walsh, 113 gross; Veterans Over 50s: R. Lewis, 112 nett; Aggregate Rose Bowl: S. Edgerley, 207 nett Spring and Autumn; 1st nett: S. Edgerley, 96 nett; 2nd: R. Lewis, 112; 3rd: E. Walsh, 113; 4th: R. Janovskis, 114; 5th: F. Fletcher, 115; 6th: J. Leonard, 116½ C.P.O.; 7th: S. Dagger, 116½; 8th: J. Robinson, 117; 9th: P. Chapman, 117½; 10th: D. Golding, 119; 11th: R. Peters, 121; 12th: H. McAddey, 121½; 13th: A. Leonard, 123½; 14th: R. Graham, 125; 15th: M. Holmes, 126½; 16th: R. L. Thomas, 127; 17th: H. M. Walsh, 128 C.P.O.; 18th: J. Wright, 128; Visitors Prize: K. Edgerley, 73 nett over 18 holes.

There will be an extra Tournament for 1975 which will take place prior to our Spring Tournament as under.

It is proposed that SISIS Equipment (Macclesfield) Ltd. will sponsor a Golf Tournament to be played for annually by North West Greenkeepers.

The event will be held in April, at a course within the region, and competitors will play for a trophy, with prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd best nett, as well as a special prize for best nett, 18-24 handicappers.

The venue for the 1975 Tournament will be Wilmslow Golf Club and the date, Thursday, 24th April 1975. Refreshments will be provided by SISIS and the presentation of prizes will be made at the end of the day.

Will those members of the section wishing to take part in 1975, please contact the Secretary, Mr. H. M. Walsh at 34 Kingsfold Close, Brightmet, Bolton.

The December talk will be given by our friend P. Wyatt on Monday, 9th December, at Swinton Park G.C., East Lavis Road, Swinton, time 7.30 p.m.

We welcome to the section the following new members and hope their association with us will be a happy one: A. R. Faulkener, Cheadle Hulme, Cheshire, Honorary Member; R. Young, Chorley, Lancs., Hon. Member; P. K. Shaw, Clitheroe Golf Club, Clitheroe, Lancs.; F. Johnson, Old Links Golf Club, Montserrat, Bolton; H. Jackson, Leyland Motors, Hon. Member; J. Cogan, Garforth, Leeds, Yorks., Hon. Member; D. Legg, Broughton, Chester, Hon. Member.

East Midland Section

Chairman:
G. DARBY

Hon. Secretary:
S. FRETTER, ESQ.,
4 Queens Drive,
Leics. Forest East,
Leicester.

THE Annual Spring Tournament is being held at Spalding Golf Club on Wednesday, 14th May 1975. If you are interested in a bus for this tournament, would you please let me know.

The final of the Knock Out Cup was held at Rothley Park Golf Club on Sunday, 20th October 1974. This was won by Mr. M. Lane, a vice-president, who beat R. Willars 5 and 3.

I would like to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Midlands Section

Chairman:

G. HART

Hon. Secretary:

R. GOODWIN

2 Greenkeepers' Cottage,
Ashridge Golf Club,
Berkhamsted, Herts.

FOLLOWING the resignation of A. Jamieson the position of Hon. Treasurer is now held by Mr. E. V. Thomas. Members and Vice-Presidents please send your subs. to the new Treasurer at the address below.

Mr. E. V. Thomas,
78 Hillmorton Road,
Four Oaks,
Sutton Coldfield,
West Midlands.
Tel. 021-308 2954.

I would like to welcome the following new members: N. Pullen, Blackwell (Class C); A. B. D. Black, Finham Park (Class C); J. Guest, Sutton Coldfield (Class C).

Belated congratulations to C. Frost who now holds the position of Head Greenkeeper at the new Druids Heath G.C.

Sheffield Section

President:

A. SHARDELOW

Little Timbers,

The Quillot.

Walton-on-Thames,

Surrey.

Hon. Secretary:

B. V. LAX

153 Kilton Road,

Worksop,

Notts.

OWING to personal commitments, our secretary for the past eight years, Mr. Henry Gillespie, has recently given up the position. Henry has worked really hard on behalf of our section. I would like to thank him on behalf of all our members.

Our annual match for the Slater Trophy played against the Northern Section, took place at Doncaster G.C. on 17th September by kind permission of the captain and committee.

The course was in fine condition unlike the weather which was, to say the least, a bit wet. The result of the eleven eighteen hole matches was a very pleasing win for Sheffield, 7 matches to 4.

During the morning the Sheffield members played a 9 hole Bogey com-

petition for the Coach Cup. The winner being Mick Coultas (Grange Park Golf Club). Second was Roy Brailsford (Worksop Golf Club).

Once again our lectures will be held at Abbeydale Golf Club, on the first Thursday in every month at 2.30 p.m. Thanks go to Abbeydale for allowing us to use the club. The first meeting was a demonstration of Jacobsen equipment and was attended by approximately 35 members. Our thanks go to Mr. D. Coad of Rolfe's Mini Tractors Ltd., also to Fearnco Ltd. for a very interesting afternoon.

Best wishes to all members and their families for a very Happy Christmas.

Diary Dates

- Dec. 3 South Coast Section Film "Grasses"—J. H. Franks
Twyford Seeds. Alresford
G.C. Time 7 p.m.
- 4 Southern Section Lecture
— Whitbreads Social
Club. Time 6.30 p.m.
- 9 North-West Section Lec-
ture—H. Pattison & Co.
Swinton Park G.C. Time
7.30 p.m.

1975

- Jan. 7 Midland Section—Panel/
G'keeper/Trade Rep.
"Question Time". Edg-
baston G.C. Time 2 p.m.
- 8 Southern Section Lecture
— Whitbreads Social
Club.
- Feb. 4 Midlands Section Lecture
— Mommersteeg Int.
Kings Norton. Time 2
p.m.