

# TOPICAL TURF TIPS

The Golf Course problem page, gives expert advice to management problems

## QUESTION

*My newly appointed Green Chairman has asked if there are any courses he can attend so he can obtain a better understanding of answering queries from his Committee as well holding a meaningful conversation with me.*

## ANSWER

Good for him. Too many Green Chairmen take on the job without the faintest idea of what is involved.

The Sports Turf Research Institute are running a two day course on 23rd /24th January 1990 aimed specifically at Green Chairman and Golf Club Secretaries and have said they will run another the same week if it is oversubscribed.

We also hear that the English Golf Union are to hold a pilot scheme on a greenkeeper training helpline at Kings Norton Golf Club in December to which all Green Chairmen in the West Midlands will be invited. The USGA Greens Section produce a booklet for their Green Chairmen to give them guidance in their duties, but we know of no similar publication in this country. Over to you Mr. Bonallack and Dr. Peter Hayes.

## QUESTION

*I am looking for a weed kill applicator that does not involve dressing up in all the safety gear and putting on a back-pack. When I walk round the course in the morning, I see odd spots of weed that need controlling but it is hardly worth while sending some-one out with all the equipment to eliminate a dandelion or a couple of daisies.*

## ANSWER

Your problem may soon be over. Chipmans are about to market their Nomix Compact Lance, with a ready mixed herbicide pack loaded into the handle. It is a completely self contained unit controlled by a micro chip so the operator can set the rate of spray and chose one of three widths from 24 inches down to 6 inches.

There is enough spray in the pack to cover three miles of fence line and light enough in weight to carry on your daily walk.

The Lance should have been on sale in June, but Nomix received such a large order from the USA for their more sophisticated SuperPro back pack spray, production of the hand lance was held up. At only £89 it looks good value for money.

## QUESTION

*I have been told that chlordane is to be banned from golf greens from January 1993, what are the alternatives?*

## ANSWER

Almost spot on, your information is correct, but you will not be able to buy chlordane after December 1990 and you must no longer store it from December 1992.

Chlordane has been banned from large scale areas like fairways from the beginning of the year, but can still be used on the greens for another two years.

Casting worms can be discouraged by regular scarifying and boxing off the clippings on the surrounds as well as the greens. An acidifying fertiliser programme will also discourage casting worms.

As for alternatives, carbaryl or gamma HCH can be used though they will not be as effective. The plus side is that both products may also control leather jackets. The best time for application is in the autumn and spring, but wait until you have had a few wet days.

## QUESTION

*This is 'nt a question merely a statement. It has occured to me that the amount of "down-time" on golf courses, when staff are unable to work must be greater than in any other industry in the country.*

*Golfers are out on the course every day before 8.00am and on Saturdays and Sundays at least an hour earlier. They all expect the staff to down tools whilst they play their shots and if machinery is running they glare at the driver until it is turned off. I am sure some of them believe the birds should stop singing.*

## ANSWER

You have our sympathy. Unfortunately there are some golfers who just do not appreciate that work has to continue to prepare the course for their next round. It is a question of club education.

There is no reason why they should not stand back for a green to be cut or the tractor turned round on the fairway, but there does seem to be a tendency for golfers to think they have complete right of way.

It would be interesting if anyone has any firm statistics on the number of hours lost each week under the heading "Waiting for Golfers".

# WESSEX

## Sweeper Collectors

Collect leaves, grass clippings and litter from turf or hard surfaces.



The Wessex Sweeper is PTO Driven, has a big hopper which can be tipped from the tractor seat, and is designed to sweep clean even on undulating ground.

4ft & 6ft versions for tractors from 15hp



Optional  
gully brush  
attachment

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