

## SNOW MOLD CONTROL WITH PMAS

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Control of Snow Mold during the coming winter months shows much promise after a careful analysis of the results obtained last year. Tests conducted by the Canadian Department of Agriculture in which PMAS and eleven other commercial fungicides were studied on six Colonial Bents, three Velvet Bents and fifteen Creeping Bents showed remarkable consistency in the relative action of each fungicide on all varieties of grass tested. Not only did the mercury compounds as a group give best control but also the liquid formulations held their places with the generally considered "more stable and longer lasting" compounds.

What may not be generally known is the fact that the fungus *Typhula*, which is the predominant cause of Snow Mold, has a resting or dormant stage known as "sclerotia". These small, hard, yellow structures which one finds on the leaves, crowns and roots of dead and dying turf in the diseased areas, are most difficult to kill. Thus, the sudden changes in weather and the less active fungicides which may destroy many of the fungi have little or no effect on the sclerotia of *Typhula*. When weather again becomes optimum for the growth of this fungus, the sclerotia germinate and the disease once again becomes active.

Following the late fall application of the fungicide tests in Canada last year, in turn followed by a snow cover which remained only until late December, the weather opened up and the turf remained bare through most of a rainy January. Recordings of Snow Mold infection at the end of March still showed that the measure of control with liquid formulations of mercury was excellent. Thus, what has been considered by many in the past to be a good fungicide with fast action but lacking in the stable qualities to give long-lasting activity against an organism such as *Typhula*, must now be reconsidered as a good and less expensive material for the long-term protection against Snow Mold.

## CHEMICAL LAWMOWER

Every summer weary menfolk stop their lawnmowers, wipe their brows, and ponder the wonders of a chemical that would keep the grass just high enough and never too high. Well, the Naugatuck Chemical Division of U. S. Rubber Company may have come up with a chemical that very nearly performs such magic. Called "maleic hydrazide," it has been extensively tested on Connecticut roadside grass as a means of retarding growth and there by slashing highway upkeep costs. Treated areas, the company reports, required only two mowings throughout the spring and summer. The product is still in the experimental stage, but hopefully—it may be the answer to some of our mowing problems such as the rough, mounds and banks and other places on the golf course which require a lot of hand labor. It will be something to experiment with next year.

## NEW 'BUG' WEAPON

A new use of electricity promises to make control of plant diseases by dusting more effective. Better Homes & Gardens magazine reports. Researchers have figured a way to charge dust particles with a "negative" electrical charge as they leave the nozzle of the duster. Since plant leaves have a "positive" charge, they attract the dust like a magnet metal. As a result, up to 11.6 times as much dust is deposited and held on plants as when nonelectrified dust is used. The idea will be developed commercially in 1952.

## SPREADING IT THIN

Mr. Whittle owner of Fox Valley C. C., played Varsity football at the University of Michigan in 1926-27 and 28.

One of the best employer-employee relationship gestures the Mole has heard of to date was announced by John Palocovic, owner of the Midwest C. C. John has rented an apartment in Miami Beach and is making it available to employees who have been with him for two years or more for a two weeks vacation. Henry Millies, Superintendent at Midwest, plans to leave for his vacation right after Christmas. This sounds like a mighty fine idea.

Pete Stewart and his son, Ed., have been hunting almost every day since the season opened. Ray Gerber, also has been getting his quota of birds daily. Both Pete and Ray report that they have good dogs, which has added much to their success.

Ray Gerber, Don Strand, Bob Williams and Paul Burdett plan to meet with the Michiana Association for their annual meeting at Notre Dame at South Bend, Indiana. This meeting has, in the past, been most interesting and instructive, featuring an annual visit to one of the research projects at the University. One year the group visited the Notre Dame cyclotron and had a discussion of atomic research.

Mel Warnecke, Supt. at Idlewild C. C., plans to take an extended vacation in Florida and should be there right now. Lucky Mel.

The Superintendents in the Chicago District who have winter sport activities are busily preparing for an expected early winter.

Bob Chamberlin and his Mrs. came up all the way from Kankakee to attend the dance on Nov. 17. Mrs. Chamberlin underwent an operation a month ago but has made a quick recovery and was able to dance a little. Darn good dancer too.

As is usually the case, there were more ladies who wanted to dance than men who could or were willing to try. Some of the boys had quite a workout dancing with the surplus females.

Bob Duguid, Supt. at Evanston C. C., entertained a number of Superintendents at Evanston on one of the good days of October. Bob's hospitality left nothing to be desired and all present had a wonderful time.

Jerry Dearie, Superintendent at Edgewater C. C. recently made a flying trip to Mexico City to confer with golf course officials there on turf culture. Jerry reports that the golf clubs in Mexico are very anxious to raise the standard of course conditions and that the officials feel that this can be done by an organization of the men responsible for the upkeep of the courses and by proper training. Jerry said that the country was fine, but that he did not care much for the food and water.

## THE MOLE

## NITROGEN PRODUCTION RISES

Here's the latest on the fertilizer situation from the department of agriculture in Washington, D. C.

Nitrogen production may increase by only 5% in 1952. But the prospect is bright for the future. Agricultural officials and defense agencies are considering application for construction of plants capable of producing 700 thousand tons a year.

Phosphate production may lag a little below this year's output. It is handicapped by a shortage of sulphuric acid. Next year with a rise in demand and price along with a 10% reduction in supply, the shortage will be greater.