

MERION RUST REPORT

During 1954 rust conditions affecting MERION Bluegrass were reported in some areas in the country. Rust appeared suddenly, unexplainably, and in various degrees of moderately intense infestation.

As MERION has been almost completely disease-free through years of testing and propagation, the appearance of rust has become a matter of some concern to turf specialists. Accordingly intensive research is being conducted at Pennsylvania State University on rust under a grant-in-aid awarded to that institution by the MERION Bluegrass Association. It is expected that this activity will provide additional knowledge and more efficient methods of positive control.

For the time being, the Turf Research Foundation submits the following suggestions for those who have a rust problem on their turf:

Rust is not Necessarily Fatal. It starts as brown spots near blade tips in late summer and its lesions can cover entire plants unless checked. Rust will usually not destroy the turf which is rapidly restored under favorable conditions.

Rust can be controlled by cultural means when it attacks turf which has become too dry and lacks available nitrogen. Such attacks occur when spring fertilization has been exhausted or lack of moisture renders unavailable plant food present in undissolved form. In such cases the remedy is to apply nitrogenous fertilizer and moisture promptly when first rust symptoms appear.

Rust can be controlled by decrease in watering when it develops following excessive moisture conditions. MERION Bluegrass should not be heavily watered in periods when average rainfall provides for the needs of the turf.

Rust can be controlled by "air drainage" when it starts in areas where wind movement is restricted by hedges and enclosures. Thinning of shrubbery or removal of obstacles is found to be most effectual.

Rust can be controlled by removal of clippings for re-infection is usually a causative factor. Inasmuch as rust starts at the leaf tips the collection of clippings can prevent its spread to other parts of the plant.

Rust can be controlled by elimination of loose organic surface fertilizer which may be furthering the propagation of rust fungus. Such fertilizer should be under the ground, not on top.

Rust may be destroyed by a good fungicide. Best results reported to date have been obtained with PHYGON XL. Also Captan, Teresan and sulphur (at temperatures over 80°) will stop rust.

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The Golf Course Reporter*

Edward Wohlenberg of the Navajo Hills Golf Club stood for and won the post of Matteson, Ill. Park Commissioner in election the 19th of April. Do a good job, Eddie.

Harry Drafke of Acacia C. C.—instructing the new workers in the art of watering. "If it rains be sure to get the hose and sprinklers inside before they get wet."

John Boettger of Idlewild C. C. says hail as big as golf balls hit his greens and fairways during March. They are still sadly pockmarked and beat up, and all the roofs on shelter houses around the course have to be replaced.

Malathion is a first cousin to the insecticide parathion, but is less toxic to warm blooded animals than parathion. On the other hand, malathion will kill some insects which are not fazed by parathion.



HAROLD REED

As we mentioned in our last issue, Harold Reed has resigned as Superintendent at Ridgemoor and Clifford Rasmussen, who was Harold's assistant there is the new Superintendent. Harold's son, Kenneth, is now assistant to Gordon Brinkworth at Brookwood Country Club.

Last fall there was much evidence of severe damage to Merion Bluegrass turf due to rust. Turf was severely thinned out and some of it went into the winter in poor condition. We noted this spring after an application of complete fertilizer that the grass snapped back in beautiful shape again.

Well, it looks like it is really new car time on the north side. Emil Eiser at Shore Acres has joined the crowd with one of those red and white Fords. Emil says that now he knows what it is like to ride in a fire engine. Gabe Rosset also weakened and bought a Cameo beige, titian red, Buick hardtop the other day. Gabe says that he was headed for an all red outfit but Lotti stopped him in time.

You have to be careful with these new automatic gear shifts these days as Susie Johnson found out the other day. She left the new Chevie in drive while she got out to open the garage door. As she opened the door she turned around and was pinned to the door by the car which had inched forward. It damaged the door and Susie but we are happy to report that she is in good condition now, fortunately. The moral of this story is that it doesn't pay to put the car in the garage, Susie. Let Al do it.

Emil Cassier's wife has been quite ill and undergone surgery at the Sycamore Community Hospital. Here's hoping for a quick recovery, Mrs. Cassier.

Roy Robinson of Old Orchard says he's a grandpop for the 12th time. His son, Roy Jr., became the father of a 6 lb. 7 oz. girl recently. Roy says that after the first ten times it hasn't bothered him.

Mike McDonald is up and around after his accident last fall. Mike runs the driving range at Rob Roy.