

THE BULL SHEET, official publication of THE
MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE
SUPERINTENDENTS.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

At the invitation of Mr. H. R. Kemmerer, Assistant Professor of Horticulture at the University of Illinois, on June 13th the officers and directors of the Midwest Association met with the staff of the Horticulture Department at the Downers Grove Horticultural Experiment Station. The purpose of the meeting was to acquaint us with the physical facilities at the experiment station and to seek our opinions relative to initiating a positive research program in the field of fine turfgrass. In addition to Mr. Kemmerer, Dr. Birkeland, head of the Department of Horticulture, was present; Dr. Wienard, Professor of Floriculture who has been active in turf work for many years; Mr. Miller, the resident at the experiment station; and Mr. Jack Butler, who has been employed to work in turfgrass research *full time*.

According to Dr. Birkeland, the University of Illinois is prepared to expend during the next year between \$20,000 and \$30,000 for work in turf. However, a very unique situation exists. Funds and qualified personnel are available (although not unlimited), but they have no specific research projects. We have failed to indicate to them what our specific problems are. What can they do that will ultimately advance our knowledge of turfgrass management?

The University has men available to do research work in plant diseases, soils, weed control and turfgrass management. It would be indeed unfortunate if we do not utilize their talents. I could, as an individual, make some suggestions to Dr. Birkeland and his associates. However, as President of the Midwest Association it has been and it shall continue to be my duty to express the opinions of the members. Please make your thoughts on this subject known to me.

If we do not strive continually and conscientiously to advance our knowledge, then we shall become as stale as a loaf of five day old bread.

Donald Gerber, President

WESTERN OPEN

Mr. Jerry Dearie, Superintendent of the Medinah Country Club, has advised us that we may gain admittance to the Western Open upon presentation of either our Midwest Association membership card or our GCSAA membership card. Being a thoughtful and gracious host, he has made arrangements that we may park our automobiles in the service yard. Thank you, Jerry, for your efforts in our behalf.

MESSAGES FOR DR. GRAU

Send to: Dr. Fred V. Grau
Box 177
College Park, Maryland

SOIL STERILIZATION FOR BETTER TOP DRESSING

by Bill Bengyfield, USGA Western Director

An explorer was once asked, "In the jungle, will the wild beasts harm you if you carry a torch?" - "It all depends," he answered, "On how fast you carry it."

In today's battle to maintain the best in golfing turf, the golf course superintendent and green chairman sometimes have to run fast just to maintain present turf conditions. Whether or not they outrun the competition and actually bring about turf improvement (or be swallowed by it) depends almost entirely upon good planning, organization and an adequate budget.

Certainly one phase of good putting green management is an adequate and sensible top-dressing program. This was discussed in detail in the November - December 1961 Western Turfletter. Now an important consideration (and one receiving an ever increasing amount of interest throughout the country) in planning this work is a program of sterilizing or fumigating the soil mixture. Clean compost soil, free of viable weed seeds, is essential for the top-dressing of greens and all fine turf areas including seed beds. Sterilized composted soil, 100 percent weed free, can be produced!

Here are some of the soil sterilants now available. Also included are notes on their use and approximate cost:

Methyl bromide — is a deadly gas that must be used with caution. It is very effective on weeds and nematodes and should be used when temperatures are 60 - 65 degrees or above. The rate is 10 to 20 lbs. per 1000 sq. ft., and the treated area must be covered with an airtight and chemically inert cover (plastic tarpaulin). Leave covered for 48 hours for best results. Planting may be accomplished two to three days after cover is removed. Methyl bromide may be purchased with a warning agent added (chloropicrin) to reduce possible accidental inhalation. The cost is \$7.50 to \$15.00 per 1000 sq. ft., add labor and tarpaulin.

Vapam — is a trade name for sodium N — methyl dithiocarbamate. Other names are SMDC and VPM. It gives good control of most weeds and nematodes. It is usually applied at 2-1/2 gallons per 1000 sq. ft. (1 quart per 100 sq. ft.) and does best when applied as a drench. For composting, apply at rate of 9 oz. per cubic yard of soil. After Vapam has been applied, irrigate with enough water to seal the surface to keep the Vapam in the soil. Additional frequent and light irrigations are very helpful in keeping the Vapam in the soil. At the end of 14 days, cultivate the area and allow about two more weeks before planting. Approximate cost is \$7.50 per 1000 sq. feet.

Calcium Cyanamid — When properly used, this chemical will do an outstanding job of weed control at a very low cost. It should be used at the rate of 75 to 100 lbs. per 1000 sq. ft. and worked into the upper two or three inches of seed bed. For composting, add 13 lbs. of calcium cyanamid to each cubic yard of soil and mix thoroughly. After mixing, irrigate moderately if soil is dry. At least four to six weeks are needed (during warm weather) or eight to twelve weeks (during cool weather) for the calcium cyanamid to break down and bring about weed control. Planting must be delayed until after this period. The material sells for approximately 5¢ a pound.

Mylone — is a trade name for a chemical known as DMIT. It is effective on weed seeds and nematodes. It must be applied at the rate of 10 to 12 lbs. per 1000 sq. ft., and should be cultivated into the soil or applied as a soil drench. In composting, mix 2 lbs. to each cubic yard of soil. Follow the application of Mylone with an irrigation. A wait of 15 to 20 days is needed before planting. Approximate cost is \$1.50 per pound for the material.

Sodium Arsenite — has been used when preparing a seed bed for a green or nursery area. (Note: this is not suggested for top-dressing preparation). O. J. Noer reports that *Poa annua* has been eliminated from seed beds by spraying sodium arsenite at the rate of 1/2 lb. per 1000 sq. feet. Follow by harrowing the treated area. Repeat this procedure for a total of twelve times. Allow at least one week before planting.

Method to Determine When It Is Safe To Plant Or Use Sterilized Soil

Because of varying weather conditions, temperatures and irrigation rates, it is often difficult to determine exactly how soon sterilized soil may be used for top-dressing or planting. A simple test is possible.

Take small random samples of the treated soil and mix them in a pot or flat. Sow radish seeds in the soil. If the seeds germinate normally in a few days, the soil is ready for use.

ANNOUNCEMENT! SHORT AND SWEET:

The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents, as an added service, has decided to give a gratis coat emblem crest to all members who now own or will be purchasing an Association approved "Green" coat.

The Executive Board

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