



HOLMES CORNER

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Last fall while calling at Somerset Country Club in St. Paul, Minnesota, I saw where Jerry Murphy had installed small, slit trenches made with a power chain saw on a few of his greens. Slits were dug to a depth of between 8 and 12 inches in low-lying areas and extended to the collars and beyond. Soil was removed and grooves filled to the surface of the soil with a calcined clay product (or sand). No soil whatsoever was used as fill or covering. Jerry reported that within approximately 2 weeks turf cover grew over slits and no problem to putting resulted. He said as many trenches as considered necessary can be installed. This spring I have seen where 3 or 4 fellows in other areas of the Midwest have installed such trenches. To date, it appears this is an excellent method for draining localized wet areas and one which may be useful on greens where surface drainage is a problem.

A great deal of publicity has been given to the 3-inch wide — approximately 3 feet deep slit trenches, filled to the surface of the soil with pea gravel, for use in draining low, water-holding areas primarily on the fairways and roughs. I first learned about these from Roy Nelson, superintendent at Ravisloe Country Club, and have since carried the word to golf course superintendents throughout the Midwest. As you know, no soil whatsoever is to be placed over the pea gravel as a perched water table will result and water simply will not enter the slit. I would say that well over 10,000 miles of these trenches have been installed and are truly working wonders in removing surface water. Obviously, if a large, low area with no surface outlet is considered, a suitable amount of sub-terranean tile must be installed in order to pick up these large volumes of water. Nonetheless, installation of trenches is a great help in relieving localized wet conditions.

I was out at Rockford Country Club earlier this week where Al Needham has held the fort as golf course superintendent for 30-odd years. During early September for the past 4 or 5 years, Al has been opening fairway soils with an aerotiller and over-seeding with a mixture of 70% *Poa trivialis* — 30% Seaside

bentgrass. At the time of this visit, I was amazed at the amount of *Poa trivialis* which has filled-in and is apparently doing a fine job. Also, bentgrass is spreading in many areas. Bentgrass is a heterogenic breeder, or one which cross-breeds readily with both male and female parental types carrying over to the progeny. Seaside bentgrass has every conceivable type imaginable. If Seaside is used, upright or colonial types, vigorous vegetative types, some with coarse blades, some with fine blades, some with coarse stems, some with finer stems; types which will do well in moist conditions, as well as types which will do well if drier conditions develop. Eventually, in a given area, a type of grass which will "do best" predominates. It would follow that every time fairways are overseeded, a certain amount of Seaside be used. Further, the mixture of *Poa trivialis* and Seaside seems to do exceptionally well together. Perhaps this is brought about by the fact that most people tend to water fairway areas in excess, occasionally.

I have become interested in the mulching work Jerry Cheesman at Park Ridge has done this past winter and currently have a series of pictures, at present still in the camera, showing results. Further, Jerry has promised to take pictures which show the complete story or what mulch might be most effective. I suggest that anyone interested in following this more closely contact Mr. Cheesman and perhaps take a trip to Park Ridge to observe results. In any event, next month I hope to have a series of pictures and to discuss this more thoroughly.

At the present time leaf spot disease is especially severe on Kentucky bluegrass. This is an excellent time to make at least one application of a fungicide, even if you do not plan to follow a regular fairway fungicide program throughout the year. Products which are working quite well are Actidione RZ and a mixture of zinc ethylene bisdithiocarbamate and iron sulfate. The zinc fungicide is applied at a rate of 15 to 20 pounds per acre with iron sulfate at a rate of 3 pounds per acre.

I learned a slick way of applying powdered arsenicals such as calcium and lead arsenate from Tom Guettschow, golf course superintendent at Lincoln Greens Golf Course in Springfield, Illinois. The reason this was so important to them was that the powdered material was considerably cheaper than the granular. Tom places a 12 foot steel pipe boom with 3/16 in holes drilled on 1 inch center on the back of his spray tank. A drop board was placed beneath the pipe so that the suspension flow would hit the board, thus even distribution over the area treated. All strainers were removed from the system, which has a 10 GPM pump. A couple handfuls of a suitable detergent such as Dreft or Tide were included. Calcium arsenate was mixed in at a rate of approximately 2 pounds per 1 gallon of water. (Tom said more may work.) The line pressure was between 35 to 45 pounds per square inch. He had an exceptionally even coverage with little or no trouble.

I have found turf and playing conditions excellent this spring with a minimum amount of winter or spring damage.

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