



HOLMES CORNER

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While calling at Itasca a couple of weeks ago, I noticed that John Coutre was circling a cup with talcum powder, rather than lime or flour as I have seen used in the past. He made a 4 foot "shoot within and get a prize" circle with the sweet-smelling material. John said that not only was the talcum powder completely safe, but the pleasant smell was obviously pleasing, especially to the lady players.

While making visits in the Minneapolis area earlier this month, I ran into a new one. Ted Mattson, the superintendent at Hazeltine National Golf Club, where, by the way, the 1970 U. S. Open is to be held, found it necessary to trap owls—because said owls were carrying off his prize ducklings. Ted learned that an owl will perch atop a post rather than in a tree when hunting. Such an owl-attracting pole should be from 8 to 10 feet above ground level. He could only locate an 8 foot post. So, after digging the post 2 feet into the tundra, the top was 6 feet above soil level. On top of this 6 foot post, he placed a cocked and ready muskrat trap. At the end of one week, Ted reported he had caught one robin, two king birds and a skunk, as apparently the trap, which was chained and staked to the ground, had fallen from the post without being triggered. Ted said it was easy to extract the robin and king birds, but the skunk presented a little problem.

The following week, sure enough, Ted trapped his owl, as well as one rather tall golfer. It seems that the golfer rested his hand on top of the post while waiting for his partner to shoot. Ted says he's either going to find a longer post or discover some other method of trapping owls.

Both Ted Mattson and Jerry Murphy, superintendent at Somerset Country Club in St. Paul, report they have had considerable success eradicating duckweed from ponds with iron sulfate. 100 pounds of ferrous sulfate is dissolved in 300 gallons of water and sprayed

on approximately 50,000 square feet of water hole which contains duckweed. The ferrous sulfate must be sprayed on during a bright, full — "sun-shiny" day. In approximately 4 hours, duckweed turns brown, then gradually disappears. Jerry Murphy emphasized the absolute necessity of spray-applying iron sulfate when the sun was shining brightly. Apparently, without direct sun-light, kill is not complete.

It is always interesting to discuss with Carl Anderson, superintendent at Woodhill Country Club, the method he has used for a number of years to eliminate valve breakage during winter freezing in the low, peat-bog locations on his Golf course, of which there are many. Carl said the peat at Woodhill does not freeze deeper than 10 to 12 inches, even during the coldest winters. Therefore, if water lines are lower than 12 inches, breakage from heaving is not a problem. Further, peat which is farmed or open and not covered with turf, does not heave. It seems that an air space or a combination of air-water layers develops immediately beneath the rhizosphere. Subsequent freezing and heaving apparently take place in or resulting from this layer. For a number of years, Carl has covered water valves which are in the freeze area with approximately 2 bushels of horse manure. Previously, he obtained the manure from his own barns. However, during the past few seasons, Woodhill has done away with horses. Now, Carl finds it necessary to obtain his supply from Bernie Zimmer, superintendent at Wayzata Country Club, where they still have horses and apparently plenty of manure. As a result of covering valves, freezing, which induces heaving and breakage, is completely eliminated. Carl says the horse manure is picked-up in the spring and spread on thin-turfed areas which may develop over the winter.

A considerable amount of Merion bluegrass is being used as a tee, collar and approach cover in the Twin Cities area. Also, newly introduced bluegrass selections, namely Fylking and Prato, are being tried. These selections are holding up well and warrant a more extensive and thorough trial and testing on golf courses throughout the Midwest. A considerable amount of *Poa trivialis* has been seeded in fairways throughout the Minnesota region, with gratifying results thus far. As a matter of fact, practically every one I called on has or is planning to use some *Poa trivialis* along with bentgrass whenever overseeding is done. At present, when referring to *Poa trivialis*, I always say, "what I call *Poa trivialis*". This is brought about by the realization that some of this type of grass may well be *Poa nemoralis* or strains of *Poa annua*.

GCSAA CLASSIFICATION CHANGE

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