

CHEMICAL LAWN MOWING

Dr. Robert W. Schery
Director, Lawn Institute

Yards that don't look shaggy for weeks, golf fairways that need clipping only once in a while, highway berms left untrimmed! Such has been the modern dream. In part the dream has been satisfied, through choice of grass. Fine-textured Kentucky bluegrass and Oregon fescue make unmowed roadsides presentable, provide top lawns when mowed only infrequently (but tall). Highland bentgrass is not aggressive either on fairway or luxury lawn. There are even new, low-growing bluegrasses, that blend with bentgrass. But choice of grass only minimizes mowing, and most lawns should be clipped as soon as the grass exceeds its customary height much over 50%.

What then of chemical treatment that could dwarf the lawngrass? This is an age of chemicals that do everything from making a plant double its chromosomes to disbudding Chrysanthemums and holding fruit on the tree. Why not a spray that will control grass growth?

Indeed, such chemicals are known. Probably most used is maleic hydrazide, sometimes sprayed along highways, and to keep seedheads from forming on bahia lawns in the South. Other chemicals such as phosphon, CCC, etc., have proved able to stall grass growth. The spray is absorbed, affecting growth of the whole plant; it does not simply "liquidate" the foliage it hits. These treatments work experimentally. Why not this panacea for lessening home mowing?

The reasons are several. First, chemical sprayings are not inexpensive. They must be precisely done with first rate equipment. This usually calls for professional application. Any missteps stand out, as scorched or retarded spots, with neighboring untreated grass ugly because it grows as a taller clump. Second, though grass may be retarded, later-starting weeds may not be. If a lawngrass is not growing vigorously, weeds stand a better chance. Chemical mowing can actually turn your lawn ranker and more weedy. Third, it is the even surface of a newly mowed lawn that is attractive. Chemical sprays may retard growth, but they can't regulate height of different components. So, a sprayed lawn may need a "haircut" just as soon as one unsprayed.

In spite of the occasional bad-mouthing mowing receives, people do enjoy it (even if subconsciously). It's healthful, and with good equipment inherently satisfying to match swath with neat swath. It's a release for complaint, too, gives the troops something universal to gripe about, and an excuse for not doing something else you didn't want to do anyway!

Phone: 312 669-5452 or 312 669-5771

LOUIS SCHACHTNER

Distributor

BLACK DIAMOND HUMUS SOIL

HUNTLEY, ILLINOIS

AQUA-GRO QUALITY BLENDED WETTING AGENT
AQUA-T LOW COST BLENDED WETTING AGENT
STOMA-SEAL CHEMICAL CONTROL OF WILT

AQUA-GRO GRANULAR

CONVENIENCE OF APPLICATION

Nels J. Johnson, Tree Experts, Inc.

SINCE 1930

Complete, economical tree service for Private Estates, Parks, Municipalities, Golf Courses Cemeteries, Schools, Industrial Areas.

All phases of Arboriculture, Diagnosing, Pruning, Treating, Transplanting, Fertilization, Hydraulic and Mist Spraying, Removals, Stump Routing, Municipal Forestry.

— FULLY INSURED —

GRADUATE FORESTERS • LICENSED ARBORISTS

MAIN OFFICE: 912 Pitner Avenue, Evanston, Illinois

Phones: GR eenleaf 5-1877 — GR 5-5255

Hinsdale, Illinois — FA 5-0970

THE LOGICAL CHOICE

Golf course superintendents everywhere are turning to Greens and Fairways



turf products from Borden Chemical. It's the logical choice. Greens & Fairways turf foods are especially formulated for use on golf courses.

FOR PRICES AND NAME OF NEAREST DISTRIBUTOR, WRITE:
THE BORDEN CHEMICAL CO., SMITH-DOUGLASS DIVISION
P. O. Box 419, NORFOLK, VIRGINIA 23501

GRASS SEED FOR BETTER TURF!



GEORGE A. DAVIS, INC.

5440 Northwest Highway — Chicago 30, Ill.