



HOLMES CORNER

by James L. Holmes
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It certainly was a pleasure working with **BULLSHEET** editor Tom Burrows during 1967, at which time I learned to respect Tom's ability and judgment, and I wish Dick Trevarthan, the new editor, equal success. I had an interesting conversation with Dick a couple of weeks ago when he asked me if "Holmes' Corner" could be continued. Dick said that many people are willing to "sound off", but amazingly few are willing to write. Editors of publications such as the **BULLSHEET** are fully aware of this, as it seems no matter how articulate and informed a person may be, many become completely thought and tongue-tied when it comes to the written word.

I have received a number of telephone calls, primarily from Minnesota and northern Wisconsin, regarding ice sheet cover. It seems that a severe ice storm in mid December completely covered the ground to a depth to include grass. One caller reported, he had been informed, if adequate snowmold preventive chemicals were applied prior to the time ice sheet formed, no damage to turf would result. However, he said he had heard or read somewhere that ice sheet cover itself could be damaging, especially to putting green turf. The winter of 1963-'64, was an excellent lesson for us in the Chicago area, regarding ice damage. Therefore, I informed the caller that continued ice sheet cover could completely destroy his turf, whether or not suitable snowmold chemicals had been previously applied. Further, I told him that we in this area have decided that 25 days is as long as an ice cover can safely remain in place. After 25 days of complete ice cover, such ice must be removed somehow or other. A dark material such as a natural organic fertilizer or topdressing is effective if temperatures are not excessively cold and sunshine is a reality. However, if temperatures are low and sunlight missing, the ice cover must be removed by mechanical means if necessary. It is interesting to note that even with the publicity which resulted from ice sheet cover and damage in 1964, there apparently are many golf course people who have not received this information.

In the Chicago area, and other sections of the mid-west, for that matter, environmental conditions are ideal for activity of snowmold disease causing fungi.

I am aware that many golf course superintendents in this location and especially further south, have become somewhat complacent regarding snowmold and many may not have applied a preventive chemical. In the event a suitable preventive material has not been applied, it is advisable to make this application at the first possible opportunity, or as soon as greens are "open." Even though disease activity is more severe in late winter or early spring, conditions such as we currently have predispose turf-grasses to attacks by the various fungi which cause snowmold disease and it is my opinion that unless a suitable preventive material is applied, severe snowmold damage will be in evidence later.

The USGA Green Section conference on Golf Course Management will be held at the Biltmore Hotel in New York on Friday, January 26, 1968. The discussion for the entire day will be "The Putting Green". All facets of the putting green will be discussed, including design, building and maintenance. This same program, with a few changes in speakers, also will be given at the 39th International Turf Conference and Show in San Francisco. As a matter of fact, it will take up the entire 5th educational assembly on Thursday, February 22nd. I hope to see many of you there.



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