



HOLMES' CORNER

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This will be a rather short BULLSHEET article as I have been kept busy, the last couple of weeks, observing serious "winterkill" damage on greens in the greater Chicago area — and especially further west and north. Of keen interest, to me anyway, is the comment in "Holmes' Corner" which appeared in the April issue of the BULLSHEET. In the last paragraph, I reported I have seen "absolutely no evidence of winterkill or serious damage throughout the Chicago area this spring." It looks like you would learn after a while to be a little patient when dealing with nature. Honestly, at that time we had just had a wet snow and it looked like green turf would recover in great shape. Within two weeks following the April article, temperatures were in the 80's, wind was in excess of 30 miles per hour for three days, and relative humidity was 30% or below. Sure enough, green turf, especially on high spots, simply desiccated and to date has refused to show much life. Even so, it would seem that nodes continue to be alive in these areas and recovery should be almost complete — with time. Most golf course superintendents have either spiked or aerated the high spots, overseeded with either Seaside or Penncross bentgrass at a rate of 1 pound per 1000 square feet, and topdressed with soil either from the cores or from an outside source. This, along with keeping the desiccated areas constantly moist, is all that can be done. A considerable amount of patience must be forthcoming from golfers as well as golf course superintendents; simply waiting until some seed, but primarily node growth, occurs. Recovery should be well on its way following two to three weeks of "good growing weather." In the future, I believe I will wait until June 1st before I make any specific statements regarding winter and spring recovery.

This past week was spent in southern Indiana and Kentucky. Green turf in these areas has wintered well and is quite good. Not only this, but Bermudagrass, where it is used, has completely broken dormancy and it would appear that winter damage is only minimum this year.

This coming week I plan to make a series of visits in Wisconsin and have already heard that desiccation or drought damage on greens is a serious problem there, also.

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