



HOLMES CORNER

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Last month all indications were that spring turf recovery was going to be complete and I jumped the gun and said so. As so frequently can and does happen, evidence of winter and spring damage was slow to develop, but develop it did. I have had many calls and made numerous visits, especially to courses west of the Chicago area, regarding desiccation damage on greens—especially on high spots. I am happy to report that in practically all cases turf has not been killed, but rather badly bent and recovery should be complete by Memorial Day. Nodes are, at the time of this writing, still alive and will recover if surfaces, or the mat and thatch layer, are kept **constantly moist**. By constantly moist, greens must be wetted-down 4 or 5 time daily, especially during the hot, windy days we have been witnessing.

Further, it would be added insurance if the most severely desiccated locations were spiked and overseeded. That is, if greens to receive this treatment are a mixture of bents, thus overseeding would not ruin a pure strain; or if turf already is Seaside or Penn-cross bentgrass. Be careful with use of inorganic fertilizers at this time or until recovery is near completion. Heavy use of these materials will tend to dry existing growth even further. If inorganics are used, be extra careful that they are well watered-in and surfaces are kept wet.

In the event of complete kill, which will occur on highest nobbs only, soil opening and overseeding will produce putting turf within 6 weeks to 3 months. It is advisable, especially when considering the great demand on greens today, to resod such areas, thus attaining suitable putting conditions much sooner.

Now that the turf conference season is over, I'm of the opinion that this year saw the best conferences yet. Indeed, they are improving yearly. The most discussed subject was — greens construction, as it usually is, followed with irrigation, then personnel related subjects. I was especially interested to hear Joe Duich's talk, at the Michigan Conference, regarding the soil work they are doing at Pennsylvania State University. It seems the soils people are getting closer and closer together, regarding physical properties optimum for greens construction. Again, especially when considering the tremendous demand on today's greens.

Work is slowly creeping along on selections of superior bentgrasses at a few universities. It would seem that nothing startlingly new is in the offing. Apparently demand for improved bents simply is not sufficiently great to encourage research agencies such as grass suppliers and land grant colleges to expend much money in this endeavor. With the exception of Penn-cross bentgrass, we have pretty much depended upon natural selections for our useful types. By the way, natural selection is pretty hard to beat if you have the time.

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