

### Nitrate of Soda

IT is well known to every one interested in plant life that the three most important elements of plant food are nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash—and of these the one most usually lacking in the soil is nitrogen.

Soil without nitrogen is barren. It often happens in connection with the maintenance and upkeep of a golf course that it is necessary or advisable to apply some quick-acting manure to stimulate the growth of the grasses, perhaps to throw off some plant disease or fungi, or to produce a healthy, strong, thick growth to withstand expected severe weather conditions or heavy wear and tear.

There are many varieties of nitrogenous fertilizers, all of which are valuable as containing more or less nitrogen in some form or another, but nitrate of soda stands out by itself in one particular, viz., that it is the only one at present available on any large scale in which the nitrogen is in the form of "nitrates" and as such immediately "available," that is to say, in such form that the plant can absorb it within a few days of its application.

Sulphate of ammonia is the most concentrated of all nitrogen fertilizers, usually containing no less than 20 per cent. of nitrogen, while nitrate of soda will average about 15.6 per cent. It is the "by-product" from many manufacturing processes, abundantly produced in the manufacture of bone charcoal, illuminating gas or coke. Before the nitrogen in this compound, however, is available, it must be acted upon in the soil by nitric acid ferments, and unless the soil is acid free or sweet the results will be very unsatisfactory.

In other words, sulphate of ammonia

should not be used where there is any suspicion that the soil may be sour, and we often find such is the case on many of our golf courses, especially on heavy clay wet soils.

Sulphate of ammonia and lime should never be mixed. The lime must be applied to the ground, first say in the Fall season, and then the sulphate of ammonia applied the following season and its action will be fairly rapid.

Both in the case of sulphate of ammonia and nitrate of soda they should not be used at the rate of over 150 pounds per acre, or better still two and one-half pounds per 100 square yards and applied mixed with some compost or sifted loam, and during dry weather watered in. The Spring of the year is the best time for the fertilizers, although they can be used sparingly during the season, but not in the late Fall. Remember that nitrate of soda is very quick in action and must be only used with discretion. It will last only one season, and as it only supplies one element of plant food, nitrogen, it must not be relied upon alone.

A complete artificial fertilizer rich in nitrogen is always the safest of the chemical manures to get in the habit of using in conjunction with stable and farmyard manure composts or humus.

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### To a Broken Club

Old Club, 'tis pity you and I must part,  
 And be no more companions on the  
 field;  
 For you were fashioned with a master's  
 art,  
 And worthy for a champion to wield.

How gladly did my eager finger grip  
 Your trusty shaft, so strong and  
 sinewy,

And felt that, from your rounded toe  
to tip,  
No better club e'er swept the sandy  
tee!

How often did the ball, well driven, fly  
Afar, straight toward the distant,  
guarded green

Upon the trim and yielding turf to lie,  
And there to await the brassie's im-  
pact clean!

The sturdy shaft of yours for years  
withstood

Unnumbered tests through which we  
both have passed;

For your firm-ribbed and well-seasoned  
wood

All weaker growths was destined to  
outlast.

But sadly shattered is your boasted  
strength;

Unskilful was the blow that did the  
deed;

Now rent asunder is your slender  
length;

For you no more will golf's white ball  
be teed.

Farewell, old friend! No careless hand  
shall cast

Your broken form upon the kindling  
pile,

To lie with base, ignoble blocks at last,  
That would your gloss immaculate  
defile.

No unkempt kitchen wench with greasy  
hand

Shall split you into splinters for her  
need

And, thoughtless, throw you on the  
burning brand,

In sooty stove her frying flames to  
feed.

The ample hearth shall be your funeral  
pyre,

My own familiar hand shall lay you  
there,

Upon the genial, glowing, household  
fire,

That cheers and warms the circle  
gathered there.

### Truing a Green

IT appears the universal method of  
Green Truing today, whether by  
sand or compost, is to have the material  
broadcast with a shovel, then as  
evenly distributed as possible with the  
back of a rake.

It requires considerable experience  
to broadcast sand or compost upon the  
greens accurately enough to secure an  
even distribution. It also requires con-  
siderable experience to true a green  
with a rake.

We have found on numerous courses  
that the truing of the Greens was left  
to one man, and should he resign his  
position it would be a hard matter to  
fill the vacancy, owing to the inabil-  
ity of securing a man skillful enough  
to broadcast the material accurately  
enough to produce a perfectly true  
green. After numerous experiments in  
green truing, the most practical method,  
and one which does not require skilled  
labor, is by the use of a fair sized Cocoa  
Door Mat. The mat should not be less  
than 3' x 4' long. To the center of the  
narrow end fasten a rope. After ap-  
plying the truing material, place it  
upon the ground bristle side down, and  
weight the mat down with a good size  
sod. Drag and cross drag the mat over  
the green until it is true. By using  
this method, the dressing will be per-  
fectly distributed, and when the opera-  
tion has been completed the surface will  
be perfectly true.