

# How Southmoor Treats Greens

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A TYPE of basic soil most beneficial for the growth of grasses of the putting green variety, consists of 40 per cent sand and 60 per cent clay. It therefore is essential, in the initial construction of the putting green, to see that this mixture is maintained. Plants must drink, breathe and feed. The breathing of the grass is hindered by the use of heavy rolling at any time. The long sectional type of iron roller of the light variety I can recommend to be used regularly throughout the playing season.

Grass must have water, as the plant itself is composed of considerable water. The plant will absorb its proper amount and the surplus will go just below the roots. This surplus will act as a coaxing agency for the roots to go deeper. Keep your roots going downward if you want good greens. Soil porosity is the amount of water your soil can absorb and maintain in storage. The better the soil porosity the longer the green can go without sprinkling. Greens should never be mowed while the dew is on them, as this is one of nature's methods of supplying the grass with a drink.

The grass must be fed, this is the reason the fertility of the green must be maintained in a high state. I have tried several different fertilizers and have found that the best results were obtained on our greens by the use of sulphate of ammonia. When our greens were first planted there was 200 pounds of bone meal applied per green. The clover soon started to thrive. I have been using sulphate of ammonia religiously for the past three years and have finally gotten the soil in the proper condition chemically so that the clover has practically disappeared. I never quit using sulphate of ammonia throughout the entire growing season. I vary the amount used according to the season. We have had better results by using the sulphate mixed with water than applying in the top dressing.

I use as fertilizer the top dressing from our compost bed. My compost is made from topsoil taken from the ground outside the playing area, this soil has been washed in from the surrounding territory for year and years. I don't think it economical to

store the compost in piles, as it requires too much hand labor to break down the pile and mix the compost. I prefer the bed. I cover the location of the bed with about four inches of well rotted manure and then apply about four inches of sharp sand, after which I plough as deeply as possible. I disc and harrow with a straight tooth harrow once a week. This mixes the compost, keeps the vegetation out and increases the bacteria action in the compost. When the compost is screened and applied to the green there is enough fertility in the dressing to supply the required amount of food absorption by the soil and the grass plants.

I topdress my greens at different intervals. I go by no set time as to how often the greens should be topdressed. Experience dictates when the greens should be dressed. Some of our greens are topdressed as often as twice a month, while other are only dressed every three months. It depends entirely on how soon the fertility fades out of a green when it should be topdressed.

Our greens at the Southmoor Country club are vegetatively planted bent and they have maintained their velvety appearance throughout the playing season. We are at time of writing, January first, playing our permanent greens.

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## Have Handy Test Outfit for Acid Soils

CHICAGO, Ill.—Soiltex test outfits for acid soil are attaining great popularity among greensmen, according to their sponsors, the Albert Dickinson Co.

The outfit consists of a tube of Soiltex and a stock of test papers upon which a sample of the soil being tested is placed and the Soiltex compound applied. The color of the Soiltex solution after its contact with the soil is compared with a color chart furnished with the outfit, and from the chart recommendations data is had concerning the degree of soil acidity and the amount of lime necessary to neutralize it.

One outfit is said to contain enough material for testing all the soil on a 100-acre tract.