

Kentucky Club Fights Brown Patch and Wins

By "JOCK"

"THERE is a strip of country running from Washington, D. C. west to Kansas City, Missouri that in the constant warfare on brown patch might be known as "No Man's Land." I am inclined to think that the Greens Section at Washington would agree with me that if greenkeepers in other sections of the country think they have trouble with brown patch they ought to spend one season in this "No Man's Land" so that they can better appreciate their own climatic conditions.

When we stop to think how much we have learned from the Greens Section, we stand at attention and salute; and so far as I am concerned, I accept their teachings as the gospel.

We have made experiments with most of the mercury compounds on the market and for whatever it may be worth to other greenkeepers, we give you our experience.

Calomel seemed to be the most economical chemical and we used it exclusively this past season, always using ammonium sulphate with or immediately after using calomel.

The latter part of April we discovered small brown patch on one or two of our greens and immediately gave our Washington bent greens eight ounces of calomel and the other (Columbia strain of bent grass, I think) a full pound. Three weeks later, as a preventative, we gave them another full treatment and then another after three week smore.

Beginning about June 10th we treated the greens every two weeks with little or no signs of brown patch. On September 12th notwithstanding they had been treated on the 3rd, the weather conditions were so favorable to brown patch that we gave them another treatment and then on the morning of the 18th, only six days later

This article, straight from the firing line, was written by the greens chairman of a Kentucky club. He feels he has solved the problem of brown patch control.

Are there other equally effective methods? GOLFDOM would be pleased to hear of them and publish them for the benefit of greens chairmen and greenkeepers throughout the country.

we again discovered very decided brown patch and treated them again.

Weather conditions being better, we dropped back to the two weeks' application and will perhaps give them the last treatment about October 2nd. If the weather man is right and we are in for a cool spell, we may not

treat them any more this season.

Our experience this summer has convinced us of two things: so far as we are concerned: first, brown patch can be controlled with calomel, which if immediately applied will save the green from serious injury, and second, weather conditions must govern the length of time between treatments. Furthermore, the application of the calomel to the green is so simple that it can be used hurriedly when an early morning inspection reveals the start of a brown patch invasion.

This necessity for quick application of calomel caused us to develop a new scheme of applying it.

We had considerable trouble both with ordinary calomel and with commercial calomel preparations to get it mixed with the top dressing and to avoid lumps. We also found that it was practically impossible to keep the water in the barrels sufficiently agitated to put it on with a distributor.

Facing these conditions we went to a hardware store and purchased a revolving churn for about \$13.00. The churn is simply a twenty gallon keg fastened in the middle, inside of which we strung twenty-four wires. The top of the churn comes off, as you will see from the illustration and we then put in the calomel and about four gallons of compost and turn the barrel over a few times and dump it out in a bushel basket ready to be broadcast on the greens.

We never timed the mixing period, but

it would perhaps take two men about thirty minutes to fill up the eighteen baskets and about another thirty minutes to broadcast the mixture on the greens, exclusive of the time it takes to go from the compost shed to the different greens.



This churn mixed the compost efficiently and rapidly.

Another experience we had with reference to brown patch this season might be interesting, which had to do with the top dressing. By way of helping the greens withstand the brown patch we top dressed in midsummer with sand and soil only leaving off all forms of manure and humus.

We had exceptionally heavy play on our course in August. With the two top dressings without humus the greens suffered very severely and then to make up for lost time, we gave them a pretty heavy top dressing with about 40 per cent old well-rotted manure (together with ammonium sulphate). This brought the greens back very promptly, but it seemed to make the grass quite tender and we believe was responsible for the persistent attack of brown patch in September. We have concluded never to top dress without at least 20 per cent humus, but not to use more than this during the summer months.

This may be of little or no value to anyone, but we have profited so much by reading the experiences of other greenkeepers in Golfdom that we feel constrained to offer this contribution for whatever it may be worth.

Miniature Course Always Popular

THE club with 10 to 25 extra acres of land reasonably near the club house never goes wrong to install thereon a miniature layout ranging from niblick pitches to full mashie shots. The greens need not be large for the more accuracy is required, the better your members will enjoy the play. And similarly, trap each hole to the point of unfairness—make sure a misplaced shot is heavily punished.

The miniature course is always popular. Your members will flock to it in the evenings when it is too late to play a regular nine. They will use it between the morning and the afternoon round on Sundays. They will spend hours perfecting their pitches and run-up shots.

Make the whole layout a sporting proposition rather than a test of good golf—a spot where your members can find relaxation and amusement with the minimum of exertion.

On the front cover of this issue of GOLFDOM is shown the short course at French Lick Springs, Ind. This course calls for some delicate chip shots, and an array of highly interesting putts. There is one water hole and several dog-leg holes.

Arthur Lockwood, golf director at French Lick, designed and built the course. It is proving a highly popular feature.

Member-Caddie Tournaments Feature Schedules

AS THE northern season is on its last lap one of the most interesting tournaments reported from several clubs is the Member-Caddie tourney. This is run as two-ball foursomes. It has proved highly enjoyable and strategic in getting the pick of the caddie supply bound to the club by a tie of good fellowship between the members and the youngsters.

POSITION WANTED

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCED IN ALL phases of the game, architect, maintenance, club maker and good instructor desires connection with good club. Address, Symons Golf Shop, San Antonio, Texas.