

# QUESTIONS

ASKED OF B. R. LEACH, AND HIS

# ANSWERS

## Dusting-on Lead Arsenate

Sir:

We plan to combat worms and chickweed this season with arsenate of lead. With better than 100,000 sq. ft. of green area, I figure I'll buy half a ton of it, providing I can get the appropriation past my chairman. Half a ton may seem like small potatoes to you, but to us up here it looks like we were buying all the arsenate in the world.

Is it practical to apply this with a duster of the type used for cabbages and such by truck gardeners? I want to use a duster because it looks like a quicker method than mixing with sand and spreading by hand. Am I right in believing the green, after application, should be poled lightly but not watered in? I understand you have at times experienced burning.

*C. W. P. (Mass.)*

## Reply

Any brand of lead arsenate will have a tendency to burn the grass blades if applied without some sort of filler when the blades of grass are moist. That is why I have always advised mixing the lead arsenate with moist soil or sand, inasmuch as the arsenate clings to the particles of the soil and filters down through the grass blades, even if the latter are moist. For fairway treatment, using a lime spreader, the best system consists in mixing the arsenate with milorganite and spreading on a quiet day when the grass is dry.

If you plan to apply lead arsenate with a duster, would suggest that you try one green first and see how it goes. Would select a day when the turf was dry and the air correct. You are correct in believing that the green should be poled after application, which works the lead down to the soil proper. If the soil particles at the surface are at all moist, the lead arsenate sticks to them and you can then water as much as you wish.

*B. R. Leach.*

## How Much Filler?

Sir:

As vogue seems to demand, I am gradu-

ally changing our putting greens from mixed grasses to bents, using the stolon method. Two greens were relaid in 1928. I stripped the old sod as thin as possible, and then loosened up the under-soil, scratching in five pounds of arsenate to 1,000 sq. ft. each green. This was done the first week in September and our catch was wonderful.

This spring, early, I want to go all around our greens, for twenty feet or more, and give the ground a good dose of arsenate. Where the fairways impinge on the greens I thought to use bone meal flour and mix, as you suggest, one pound of arsenate to five of the bone meal, and put it on at the rate of five pounds arsenate to the 1,000 sq. ft.; then I thought to cover the mounds and rough with the arsenate mixed with the box sand as a filler, and right here I am stuck, as I do not know how much filler to use with the pound of arsenate. Can you tell me?

For our first top dressing, along the first of April or last of March, I will give all the greens a yard of our compost, which is made up of a third 3-year-old cow manure, a third good soil and a third washed sharp bunker sand, mixing with this 25 lbs. of ammonium sulphate, and here I ask again, can we not at the same time use 30 lbs. of the arsenate to each green, mixing thoroughly the compost, ammonium sulphate and arsenate before applying, and then washing the whole mass in with the hose spray? So far, we are free of Japanese beetle grub infestation, and are after the worms mostly.

*L. L. M. (New Jersey)*

## Reply

The amount of sand to mix with 5 lbs. of lead arsenate for application to 1,000 sq. ft. of turf depends on the ability of the operator as regards broadcasting the mixture. As a general rule it is safe to begin by mixing 5 lbs. of the arsenate with a bushel of moist sand. Oftimes an experienced broadcaster can apply this quantity of arsenate to 1,000 square feet of turf by mixing with only half a bushel of sand.