

Divots from Leach's Mail-Bag

Question

Sir:

We are co-operating with ——— golf course in furnishing creeping bent stolons from our nursery for planting new putting greens next week. What is your latest advice about poisoning before planting?

R. W. C. (New York).

Answer

Sir:

You are at least a month late* in planting these bent stolons and at best stolons planted at this date in the latitude of Ithaca. Under the circumstances would not advise that you arsenate the soil of these greens before planting the stolons. Rather I would wait until you give the bent the first top-dressing next season (this first top-dressing is usually a substantial one) and at that time would apply three pounds of arsenate of lead per 1,000 square feet of turf. With each subsequent top-dressing would give from one-half to one pound of lead arsenate per 1,000 square feet of turf, depending on whether the individual top-dressing is light or heavy.

B. R. L.

(*Mr. Leach answered this query by mail in November.—Ed.)

Question

Sir:

I have tried arsenate of lead for worms but must admit only sort of half heartedly. Now I wonder as to the effect of arsenate on dandelion and plantains. Can you tell me of any real definite results with these two pests? How often should a 5 pound to the thousand square feet application be made? Also, in order to get a more even distribution, would it be possible to apply with sprinkling-can or spray?

E. A. V.
(New York).

Answer

Sir:

Would advise that there is no definite rule for the timing of the 5 pound per thousand square feet applications of arsenate of lead to turf. Greenkeepers as a

rule watch the turf and as long as the worm, weed and grub control appears to be holding its own they sit tight. If earth-worm casts or weed growth begins to creep in they again apply a dose of lead arsenate of anywhere from 2 to 5 pounds per thousand square feet of turf as their own individual judgment dictates.

I do not advocate the application of arsenate of lead mixed with water. The best method is to mix with the top-dressing, or mix with moist sand and broadcast or better still mix with a sufficient quantity of dry milorganite so that the amount of arsenate of lead used clings to the particles of milorganite and none of the former is free to blow about in the wind.

The control of plantain and dandelion by the use of arsenate of lead is not clean cut. The use of iron sulfate as described by John MacGregor in an article in an issue of GOLFDOM last spring would no doubt be of value in controlling these weeds.

B. R. L.

Question

Sir:

In your October copy of GOLFDOM, there is an article on Selective Control of Weeds.

We are greatly troubled in our fairways with crab grass which in some instances grows three feet in diameter and we are anxious to know the best method to be used in eradicating this weed.

October GOLFDOM stated that by putting on 250 lbs. of arsenate of lead successfully killed this sort of grass.

The grass I refer to is in splotches and does not cover the entire fairway and I have heard that you could inoculate the soil around each splotch with a large pump arrangement similar to a hypodermic.

I would appreciate any information that you might give me which would help me to eradicate this particular kind of grass.

M. S.

Answer

(Georgia)

The weed you refer to as growing in dense patches or splotches is probably