

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 earthworm 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

chickweed or some very closely allied species. As a preliminary test would suggest that you mix a couple of pounds of arsenate of lead in a bucket of soil sand or milorganite and scatter some of this mixture over a dozen patches and note the results over a period of two weeks. This method has proved very efficacious in chickweed control here in the East. I do not think the hypodermic injection of these patches would result in obtaining the results you desire. Treatments of this sort have not proved successful in actual practice.

B. R. L.

Question

Sir:

I note in October GOLFDOM an article with reference to the elimination of quack grass by the use of arsenate of lead. The author speaks of using 250 pounds per acre on fairways and I would be glad to know if this chemical can be applied in any other way than in top dressing.

F. P. C.
(Iowa).

Answer

Sir:

The treatment of fairways with arsenate of lead was discussed in one of my articles appearing in GOLFDOM during the past summer and would suggest that you review the article for specific directions for fairway treatments.

Of late I have been supervising some extensive fairway treatments of golf courses in the vicinity of Philadelphia and in these treatments we have used milorganite as a filler. On one course we mixed 150 pounds of arsenate of lead with 500 pounds of milorganite and applied the mixture to the fairway by means of a lime spreader. This method proved very satisfactory providing the spreading was done on days when the atmosphere was comparatively quiet. If the job has to be done in windy weather it would be better to use 750 pounds milorganite to 150 pounds of arsenate of lead.

Milorganite is a first class filler for arsenate of lead in that it is dry, fine in texture, consequently going through the spreader rapidly and also because the arsenate of lead clings to the particles of milorganite, thereby insuring an even spread and the minimum loss of the chemical due to blowing.

B. R. L.

Lead Arsenate on Bermuda Grass Sir:

I have been reading Mr. Leach's articles in GOLFDOM on worm and grub eradication with much interest. I saw in September where W. T. B., and in October Mr. Leach, wanted to hear from the south, so I will endeavor to tell you my experience with arsenate of lead on Bermuda greens.

Our number six green has always been a poor green on account of worms and soil conditions. It is very strategically and beautifully located, but on poorly drained alkali soil.

Starting March 15th I cut the grass very close, then top-dressed very heavily (three yards) on 4,000 square feet with one part black soil, one part sand and two parts manure, which practically covered the grass, but in three or four days we had a good putting surface of nice tender grass. April 15th I repeated the process and it began to improve. May 20th I top-dressed with two yards. By July 1st I had a nice turf and about three worm casts per square inch. July 10th I top-dressed lightly (one yard) with one part manure and two parts sand, which is my regular top-dressing and put twenty pounds arsenate of lead and dragged in with the top-dressing and watered. Next morning I had lots of worm casts, the second morning not so many and the third morning still less. August 8th I repeated the July 10th program, which was 40 pounds arsenate of lead or 10 pounds per thousand square feet. I won't say number six is the best green we have, but it is so much better that 80 per cent of the players have commented on it.

I have also retarded the crab grass quite a bit. I am anxious to see what the crab grass does on that green next year as we have lots of it. I have also treated three more greens with five pounds arsenate per thousand square feet with very favorable results.

We also discovered grubs on two of our approaches had been working into the greens, in fact they had damaged the approaches considerably before we noticed them. I gave them a heavy dose of arsenate and stopped them.

I don't think the arsenate hurts the grass one bit but improves it in texture, putting surface and looks, by getting rid of the worms if nothing else, so as you can see I am pretty well sold on arsenate of lead for Bermuda grass. I would like to see more in all the golf magazines on Bermuda grass as I believe it requires somewhat different treatment from bent grass.

G. H. Conger,
Greenkeeper, Dornick Hills Country Club.

Answer to R. C. (Ill.)

With regard to your letter in which you raise the question of the effect of lead