

Answer

Sir:

With regard to giving you advice on your particular problem would advise that with a very little thought I could write you a full page of criticism, comment and suggestion which would sound very authoritative and convincing, but I can assure you that I don't propose to do any such thing. In other words the editorial staff of GOLFDOM does not make a practice of shooting the bull with regard to questions they are not reasonably familiar with, and I can honestly assure you that I know nothing regarding conditions in Montana.

I can, however, give you one constructive suggestion which followed will in all probability be of assistance in coping with your problem. In substance would suggest that you get in touch with the Department of Agronomy of the Montana Experiment Station, at Cooley, Montana. The agronomists at the Montana station are a keen bunch and, equally important, they know Montana conditions and especially conditions in your section of Montana. If the distance is not too great would even suggest that you have one of their staff visit your course so that he can size up the deal at first hand.

I don't know what species of grass you are planting in your fairways but as much as possible I would stick to the native pasture grasses.

B. R. Leach.

Weed Eradication in Fall

Sir:

I have read your articles in which you advocate the use of arsenate of lead in preparing the soil for a lawn. I was successful in getting a very good lawn started last year using about four or five inches of good black dirt over clay sub-soil. This year the weeds, in spite of constant warfare against them, got a very husky start. Can you advise the best method of getting rid of them at this time of the season?

Would you use arsenate of lead as a spray?

H. J.
(Illinois)**Answer**

Weed growth for the current year is now ebbing and very little good would be accomplished by application of chemicals for weed control at this time. The first heavy frost will kill off the crab grass and give the fine grass remaining in the lawn an

opportunity to make some growth during the cool fall months. About the middle of October would suggest that you apply milorganite to the turf at the rate of 30 pounds per 1000 square feet of surface. This is an organic fertilizer and will give the grass a good kick-off in the spring before weed growth becomes heavy. Next season watch the turf and as soon as you see the crab-grass beginning to sprout apply 5 pounds of lead arsenate powder per 1000 square feet of turf, mixing the arsenate with some soil or sand in order to facilitate the operation of spreading. For such weeds as plantain and dandelion hand weeding is necessary as I know of no fool-proof and easy method of cleaning them up applicable to the owner of the small lawn.

Three quarters of the battle in weed control in fine turf consists in getting a good stand of turf to begin with, by proper seeding and then adequate feeding of the lawn to insure a vigorous growth of the grass thereby crowding out much of the weed growth. Arsenate of lead will clean up such weeds as chickweed and give pronounced control of crab-grass if applied as above.

B. R. Leach.

Sand for Top-Dressing

Sir:

I would like to have your opinion on the use of clear sand as a top-dressing for putting greens. Personally I do not favor it, but as there is quite a diversity of opinions regarding its use, I want further information on the subject.

I would also like to hear from you regarding the use of sulphuric acid to eradicate dandelions, i. e., its good and bad points, whether it is advisable to use it, and if so whether it is more efficient than the old method of weeding them out.

J. R.

(Wisconsin)

Answer—

Sir:

Sept. 20, 1929.

Would not advise the use of clear sand as a top-dressing for putting greens. It offers little nourishment to fine turf and in time will cause a layer of straight sand to form which will interfere with the up and down movement of the soil water. Where soil used for top-dressing purposes is too heavy such as a stiff clay, the addition of sand is very desirable as a means of lightening the soil and rendering it more friable.

For dandelion eradication I would give the method involving the use of iron sulphate, as described by John McGregor in recent articles in GOLFDOM, a thorough tryout. Sulphuric acid, at best, is nasty stuff for a non-chemist to handle.

B. R. LEACH.

Checking Pearlwort

Sir:

Can you tell me what causes pearlwort to come into my greens? Is there any way to check it?

My soil is a clay soil and I use Ammo-Pho and a compost top-dressing of soil, rotted dressing, and sand.

G. D.
(Maine)

Answer—

Sir:

Pearlwort creeps into greens as a result of seed in the top-dressing or as a result of seeds which are washed or blown onto the green from the surrounding turf.

This weed is closely related to the chickweeds and would suggest that you mix up about three pounds of lead arsenate to a bucket of soil and scatter the mixture over the pearlwort patches. This system is very efficacious in cleaning up chickweed

and should have the same reaction on pearlwort.

B. R. LEACH.

Weeds may be controlled on the golf course by preventing weeds from seeding in land near the course, mowing before they seed, by use of chemical plant poisons for certain varieties, by maintaining soil fertility to keep good turf, and by hand weeding. Where greens contain any bad weed, such as pearlwort, spreading may be prevented partially by not throwing clippings on regular compost piles, but keeping special piles for such clippings when weed is seeding. Pearlwort must be cut out and new sod used. Chickweed may be lessened by constant fertilization with ammonium sulphate. It may also be controlled by sprinkling a little arsenate of lead mixed with compost over it and watering it in. Arsenate of lead is now being advised for crab grass control also.

Robert Mitchell has been controlling pearlwort by "painting" the pearlwort with a solution of sulphate of ammonia, three pounds in a gallon of water, and then cutting out these burned areas as time permits.—*New England Greenkeepers Newsletter.*

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