

FROM LEACH'S MAIL-BAG

Sir: (1) What affect does ammonium nitrate have on greens and how should the material be applied? Does ammonium nitrate act as a fertilizer and will it stimulate the growth of bent grass and have a tendency to stunt the growth of dandelions, and weeds?

(2) We have some bent grass planted from creeping bent seed and some greens of stolon. We notice considerable clover in our stolon greens. What can we do to exterminate this clover?

C. O. S. (Mich.).

Answer

Sir: Ammonium nitrate, while a very desirable fertilizer, is not available commercially due to its comparatively high cost. Would suggest you use ammonium sulfate which is readily available for use as a fertilizer and cheap in price. It can be applied to turf either in solution in water or dry, mixed with the topdressing. The material is a source of nitrogen and can therefore be classed as a fertilizer. It will markedly stimulate growth of grass but its weed-controlling ability is questionable.

There is no known method of exterminating clover from greens, except the arduous one of cutting it out with a knife.

After reading your letter and the various questions included it is fairly obvious that you have had a limited experience with the maintenance of fine turf. Would suggest that you be exceedingly careful in your operations; in fact, your best bet would be to secure the services of a seasoned greenkeeper and let him run the course while you manage the club.

B. R. Leach.

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