

Some Divots
from
**LEACH'S
MAIL BAG**

Clover Control
Sir:

Have been reading over the past two or three years with much interest your articles and replies to inquiries on greens matters. We have been following your recommendations at our nine-hole club with a good measure of success, especially your advocacy of use of arsenate of lead in worm and weed control. We are now confronted with a problem. We used ammonium sulfate for two or three years on bent with very good results, but last year we had some trouble, and seeing recommendations to use some lime, we left off the sulfate and applied slaked lime, putting on rather too much and temporarily burning the grass, but they came out all right and much improved.

The greens were put to sleep along in December with a heavy dressing of sand alone, as our soil is inclined to be tight and we wanted to loosen it up a bit. This seems to have worked all right, but—we find a lot of white clover has come into the greens and your arsenate does not seem to be recommended for the eradication of clover; in fact the only reference to clover is one where you state that ammonium sulfate is the only chemical having effect on this pest, and in another article commending the use of lime, you have suggested that time and money would be re-

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quired and some research to find a treatment which would permit the use of lime, and at the same time eliminate clover.

Will you be good enough to write me if anything has been done along this line?—*(Tennessee.)*

Reply

I judge that you attribute the presence of clover to the lime applications. This may or may not be so. Until recently it was believed that lime and clover went hand in hand but now the experts, so-called, are beginning to seriously question this belief, and are contending that other factors determine the presence or absence of clover in fine turf.

In any event there is no cut and dried control for clover at present available for the use of the greenkeeper.

B. R. Leach.

Does Lead Arsenate Injure Soil?

Sir: Please inform me if I use 5 pounds of arsenate of lead to 1,000 square feet will it damage or sour the soil in time to come. The above is applied at the rate of 3 or 4 applications a season.

L. K.
(N. Y.)

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Answer

Sir: Would advise that there will be nothing gained by applying more than 5 pounds of lead arsenate per year to fine turf. This dosage will not sour or injure the soil in any way for the growth of grass.

B. R. Leach.

Controlling Earthworms

Sir: My largest problem has been to control the earthworms infesting the greens. I have applied corrosive sublimate to the greens when the grass was dry but it has generally burned the grass. I have also used arsenate of lead with top-dressing about every three weeks, but the worms are continuing to be numerous. Would it be advisable to apply heavy applications of arsenate of lead with top-dressing every few days and immediately watered to combat them? I generally have to water the greens at night and of course the following morning the greens are "peppered" with worm casts which I then have to level off with a pole.

G. H.
(Mich.)

Answer

Sir: With regard to earthworm control on your miniature course would advise that in all probability a great deal of your difficulty in failing to secure control is due to the fact that you are not arsenating sufficient turf on the outside of the greens proper. Earthworms travel considerably in their search for food and even though your greens may be arsenated and capable of killing any worm that enters them, nevertheless the worms will be constantly traveling into the green from the surrounding turf and making a cast or two on the green before they get a dose of the arsenate and succumb. This sort of thing goes on day after day and gives the impression that the arsenate in the green is not killing the worms.

The answer to this situation consists in giving a good dose of arsenate to the grass surrounding the green for a distance of at least 15 feet out from the green proper. Under these conditions the worms traveling toward the green get a dose of arsenate in this outside poisoned area before they ever get to the green proper.

B. R. Leach.

GOLF BUSINESS IS GOOD SAYS MOWER EXECUTIVE

GOLF business should be a good barometer for general business conditions and if this surmise is sound, the sad after-

math of the autumn's market collapse is getting near the vanishing point. Reports from manufacturers of maintenance and player equipment and from pros show this spring's business in healthy excess of the 1929 figures.

In some spots late snows and heavy rains delayed the placing of maintenance equipment and supply orders but the winter and spring for the most part have been first rate for growing grass and the mower manufacturers are reaping a good harvest of business.

Indicative of the operations and spirit of manufacturers who do an extensive business in the golf field is the following statement from W. L. Austin, sales manager of the Ideal Power Lawn Mower Co. Mr. Austin tells GOLFDOM:

"Sales figures showed 1929 as the best year our company ever enjoyed and for the first three months of that year, January, February and March, the business was exceedingly satisfactory due to a certain extent that last year we had some very early warm weather, in fact in some sections even in the north they were actually mowing the latter part of March last year.

"We had our doubts about this year being able to equal last year's sales record, but so far we have not only equalled last year's record but exceeded to a very gratifying extent.

"The actual increase for the first three months of 1930 on the sale of our line of grass cutting equipment, including power mowers, fairway mowers, and putting green mowers, is 28%. The biggest percentage of this increase has been due to the extra good business that we have enjoyed so far this year from sale of fairway mowers and putting green mowers to golf clubs, as well as the Ideal Triplex power mower to large park systems, golf courses, etc. As a matter of fact our golf business has never been so satisfactory as it is this year. Not only have we stepped up sale of fairway mowers but the putting green mower that we first introduced last year is having a splendid sale this spring and we have also had a very fine business on the new Bulldog rough units that we put on the market for the first time in 1930."

NEW UNIVERSAL DEALERS

Cleveland, O.—Universal Sand Equipment Co. announces the appointment of the following golf equipment dealers to handle the Universal Compost Mixer: Rice Lewis & Son, Ltd., Toronto, Canada; Geo. Davis, Inc., Chicago; E. L. Winn, Inc., Elizabeth, N. J.; Arthur B. Porter, Inc., Salem, Mass.; Whitney Golt & Co., Kansas City, Mo.; Dick Ryerson, Milwaukee; T. W. Wood & Son, Richmond, Va.; John C. Russell, Montreal, Canada; John A. Guending, State Tower Bldg., Syracuse, N. Y.; American Seed Co., Detroit.