

My 1931 Conditioning Program Dodged Brown-patch

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WOW! WHAT a relief—
What a strenuous
past season bearing
down on that poor sap,
greenkeeper.

But you learned a lesson,
old timer, did you not? It
was the most severe lesson
in the past history. Now get
over the grouch and apolo-
gize to your neglected fam-
ily and friends.

Bear in mind, Old Top,
you played a very important role the past
season. The task will go down in history.

Cheer up. You may have lost a green or
two but you laboriously fought that cham-
pion, Old Mother Nature, and deserve the
highest praise. Boys, we'll tell the cock-
eyed world we are not licked yet and may
I further add: rub a little hair dye over
those silver threads of late, roll your shirt
sleeves up and shout, "Come on 1932, we
are ready."

Well, brother greenkeeper, speaking of
brown-patch, scald, weeds and heaven
knows what, I will say I had my share of
quack grass but controlled the brown-
patch and scald somewhat successfully.

Visiting several golf courses during this
period I discovered a scald upon the greens
immediately following the brown-patch
attack.

Certain greenkeepers had the brown-
patch somewhat under control but the
scald and copper colored greens lasted
most of the season.

In most cases I discovered during the
brown-patch attack a disinfectant was
applied for further prevention but the pre-
ventive chemical, in some cases required
no water for 48 hours. Thus the lack of
water, the thermometer registering 100
degrees or more accompanied by high
winds, I believe was responsible for a scald
in all different colors appearing on the
green.

The weather conditions during the first



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days of July to my estima-
tion gave a greenkeeper
much advance warning.

Taking heed of Mother
Nature's warning, I had a
method in mind and tried it
with the hope of avoiding
brown-patch and scald all
season.

My method, which fol-
lows, may sound stupid, but
here goes:

During the season if by
any reason I suspected a brown-patch
period, my greens were thoroughly wat-
ered all night until the following morning,
and what I mean is plenty of watering.

Immediately after this long period of
watering a disinfectant application was
applied. Toward evening of that day a
heavy topdressing (without fertilizer) was
applied upon the greens but not matted
until the following morning. That even-
ing a light sprinkling followed. Upon the
third day a very light topdressing with a
fertilizer producing quickest results was
applied. The above operation mentioned
was followed by a light spraying of water
and continued light sprinkling nights.

This method of mine was maintained
during the season and my greens were
free from brown-patch and scald all year.

Eliminating the mowing of fairways dur-
ing the dry periods enables me to have the
tractor men fully prepared with materials
and ready at a moment's notice for any
disastrous occurrences.

The above mentioned tactics may sound
ridiculous but occasionally a long filler and
a slap on the back is presented me by
the green-chairman.

WEEDING, fertilizing, and watering
should not stop abruptly at the clipped
margin of a green, but should be continued
for several yards into the fairway, so that
the approach area blends gradually from
fairway turf into green turf.