

YOUR TURF PROBLEMS

... and their solution

QUESTION:

Three of our fairways are practically devoid of grass; coverage consists of buckhorn, plantain, and chickweed. If we plow and reseed, play is prevented until sometime during the next season. Is there any way whereby we can eliminate weeds and re-establish grass without materially interfering with play?

ANSWER:

Yes. There is a method worth trying which will not interfere with play. Although still considered experimental, it has been used successfully by several clubs.

By this scheme, weeds are eliminated with sodium *arsenite*, or arsenic acid, followed by liberal fertilization with superphosphate and an organic source of nitrogen. These areas are then reseeded with appropriate grasses using an alfalfa and grass disc seeder.

While these chemicals are effective weed killers, they are not always safe because both are fairly toxic to grass; bent and fescue being most susceptible and blue grass least. Injury is more likely with the liquid than with the dry method of application.

Since fairways are devoid of grass, possible injury to grass is of no consequence. Elimination of weeds, before reseeding, is the first necessity.

With either chemical, at least two treatments will be needed. In the absence of rains, within 24 to 48 hours after application, leaves begin to wilt, then turn brown and shrivel. However, on the old plants, new leaves soon appear. The second treatment should be made when these leaves attain a length of approximately 1½ inches.

The first application should be made in August, so two to three weeks (for new leaf development) will elapse before the logical seeding time in your district. If desired, fertilization and reseeding can

immediately precede the second and final treatment, without detriment to the new seeding.

A rate of 4 ounces per 1000 square feet is ample for sodium *arsenite* or arsenic acid for liquid spray application. With the dry method of application, double this quantity can be used.

Before seeding, apply 300 to 600 lbs. 20% grade superphosphate and 800 to 1500 lbs. of high-grade organic fertilizer (such as Milorganite) per acre, depending upon level of soil fertility. With these materials, immediate seeding is safe.

Grass is so sparse that a reasonably heavy rate of seeding is justified — about 125 lbs. per acre for a mixture of 90% Kentucky blue grass and 10% bent. For all fairway reseeding, the use of the alfalfa and grass disc seeder is strongly urged because it cuts the seed into the soil. Cross-seeding is necessary because discs are spaced 4 inches apart.

NOTE: On fairways where turf is reasonably good, systematic fertilization will eliminate most weeds. Any "doubting Thomas" should make trial applications of the arsenicals on limited areas before attempting large scale control with these chemicals. Otherwise, serious injury to the grass may result, due partly to lack of experience.

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Tell us about *your* Turf Problem. The facilities and service of our Soil Testing Laboratory and Field Agronomists are at your disposal, within reasonable limitations.

Turf Service Bureau

**THE SEWERAGE COMMISSION
MILWAUKEE WISCONSIN**

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THE ORGANIC-NITROGEN TURF FERTILIZER