

How We Licked Our Weed Problem

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THE matter of weed control and elimination is of great importance in producing a fine turf. Considerable success in this direction has been attained with our program at Mink Meadows.

A brief history of the construction at Mink Meadows will help explain where all our weeds came from. A strip about 100 ft. wide was cut around the property for a fire line. During summer of 1926 this area was plowed after having the stumps pulled out. For two years afterward it was cover cropped, as the soil is very sandy and had to be built up before grass seed could be planted. After the last cover crop in the spring of 1928, the area was plowed and harrowed. Nothing was done from then till 1933, at which time it was seeded with seed swept out of nearby barns, and hayseed was again sown in 1934 and 1936 over these same areas. In the meantime, a 9-hole golf course had been laid out on this area and the lanes were widened. During 1937 and 1938 these widened areas were seeded to a fairway mixture.

The hayseed areas are the ones that have become covered with weeds, while the parts of the fairways seeded to the fairway mixture are nearly clear of weeds. Therefore, the only parts of our fairways that needed treatment were these "hayseed" areas, so from here on only this part of our golf course will be considered.

Fairways 50% In Weeds

Some of our fairways had at least 50% weeds. There was English buckhorn or narrow leaved plaintain, dandelion, both the common and fall variety, yarrow and clover. The plaintain and the clover were the most troublesome of all. The plaintain sends up seed stocks continuously and so fast that it is very difficult to keep them cut off. During the height of our playing season, the clover blossoms caused great difficulty to the players in locating their balls.

After considering several weed eradicators, it was decided to use sodium arsenite mixed with Milorganite in a dry form. It seemed that this would be the only way to rid the course of these weeds as there were so many it appeared im-

possible to crowd them out with a fertilizing program; also, equipment to apply sodium arsenite in a liquid form was not at hand.

A spreader made primarily for distributing lime was used first. Unfortunately, this spreader had round openings and did not spread material evenly, so it was decided to try to improve the spreader board. This was done by using a board 8 inches wide and driving 6 penny nails in four rows, staggering $\frac{1}{2}$ inches apart along the lower edge of the board.

The mixture was put on at the rate of 400 lbs. per acre. It consisted of 4 lbs. of sodium arsenite mixed with every 100 lbs. of Milorganite; therefore, we were

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