

# MINERAL OUT; ORGANIC IN

Organic types of nitrogen available for course use, as war program takes mineral supply.

**D**URING 1942 ammonium sulphate was scarce. Urea and nitrate were practically unobtainable. These shortages were not a serious handicap or hardship. Mixed fertilizers containing mineral nitrogen, derived principally from ammonium sulphate, were available.

By a recent order mineral nitrogen, as such, or in mixed fertilizer, is banned for specialty use. The order includes golf turf.

Since organics were not included golf courses will be compelled to rely upon this type of nitrogen. That means vegetable meals such as cottonseed, soy bean, peanut meal, etc.; packing house products such as blood and animal tankage, or sewage sludges such as Milorganite.

The order does not restrict the use of superphosphate or potash materials. These can be purchased as such, or in the form of mixtures, such as 0-20-20, 0-14-7, etc. Very likely some fertilizer manufacturers will continue to offer so-called complete fertilizer for golf course use. They can do so by using organics to furnish the nitrogen.

## Turf Can Still Be Fed

In any event, golf turf can still get a square meal but it will be necessary for some greenkeepers to modify fertilizer practice.

A sensible and workable program will provide phosphate and potash in spring and fall and organic nitrogen as needed. Possibly the method of nitrogen usage in the Washington to Kansas City belt should differ from the one used farther north.

In using phosphate and potash in spring and once in the fall, rates each time should approach 8 to 12 pounds superphosphate (20% grade) and 4 to 6 pounds muriate of potash per 1,000 square feet. An 0-20-20 commercial mixture at 10 to 15 pounds per 1,000 square feet furnishes about the same quantity of phosphoric acid and potash.

If grass is green and growing, turf should be dry when phosphate or potash is applied. They should be watered-in to

prevent any possibility of burning or scorching the grass. The phosphate-potash mixture can be mixed with any organic fertilizer needed to supply nitrogen. Rates of application should be adjusted accordingly.

In northern regions where dollar spot is the chief menace to grass, and brown patch is less severe, best practice is to make two reasonably heavy applications of nitrogen in the spring, and then fertilize at lighter rates during the summer. Nitrogen hunger accentuates dollar spot about as badly as an excess. So the maintenance of a uniform and continuous supply of this element is one factor in minimizing this troublesome cool weather disease.

Two applications of good quality organic fertilizer of 6 to 8 percent nitrogen should be made in spring at 15 to 20 pounds per 1,000 square feet each time. The first should be applied about the time growth starts, and the second 6 to 8 weeks later. After that, rates should be cut drastically to 5 to 10 pounds per 1,000 square feet. Applications should be spaced 3 to 5 weeks apart. This will prevent a build-up of readily decomposable organics in the soil.

## Fall Application Rate

In the early fall the rate should be stepped up to 25 to 35 pounds per 1,000 square feet. The organic fertilizer can be applied along with the phosphate and potash mentioned above. Fertilizer should not be applied until hot weather is over.

Farther south, in the belt from Washington to Kansas City, brown patch is the principal menace and dollar spot rarely occurs except in early spring and again in fall. Unlike dollar spot, slight nitrogen hunger usually minimizes brown patch. That being the case, best practice in this region may be to make a generous nitrogen application in the spring and let it carry through until fall. In that event the spring rate for a good quality organic should approach 40 pounds per 1,000 square feet. The same rate should be

approached in fall. Fertilizer should be applied after hot weather is over. It can be mixed with the phosphate-potash fertilizer both times. Even in these regions organics can be used in summer when grass shows definite need for more nitrogen. Rates should be reduced drastically. It is better to make two light applications rather than a heavy one.

Grass may not turn green as quick in spring when fertilized with organics. Actually this may be an advantage. Young grass is always tender. When in that condition it is more easily injured by heavy frosts in late spring. In some cases we have tried to force growth too early. That may be partly responsible for increased poa annua. It grows when temperatures are too low for bent.

## "GOLF WILL SURVIVE"

### Wall Street Journal Gives Reasons For Cheer In Editorial Comment

THE Wall Street Journal, the country's foremost financial publication, in an editorial Tuesday, August 18, commented on a news story the paper had carried the previous day.

The editorial writer blended philosophic jests of a true golfer in his hopeful expression.

Under the head "Golf Will Survive" the Wall Street Journal said:

"Monday's issue of The Wall Street Journal reports that golf has a better chance of surviving the rigors of wartime than does tennis. Various reasons are given, which we will not repeat, for, with all due respect to the sagacity of the news department of this paper, we think these reasons are wrong.

"These are days full of purpose. The game of golf is the quintessence of futility. There is the reason it will survive. It furnishes a relief without which a large percentage of the population might easily become candidates for the insane asylum.

"There is some logic to the game of tennis. Two players evenly matched, even though they are far from experts, can get onto a court and engage in an interesting contest. If they are just reasonably good, their efforts will not appear ridiculous.

"Nothing like that happens in golf. Two men may have ever so close and interesting a game, but is the winner

happy? He is not. He thinks back how he could have lowered his score and goes home with the thought tormenting him. Professionals shoot 18 holes in sixty odd strokes, a feat which only a few years ago was considered miraculous, if not impossible. And what do the sports writers report the next day? They talk about the one or two mistakes that the professional made. Harry Vardon, the old time master of golf, is quoted as authority for the statement that the player who made one perfect shot in each round of 18 holes was doing very well.

### Club Shortage No Problem

"Our news story speculates darkly about a shortage of golf clubs. It's of no consequence. A man who can play golf can rip a picket off the nearest fence and beat an inept man with a bag of all the clubs that have ever been invented. It has always been our impression that a man who would take a baseball bat and tee his ball well off the ground would do much better than the citizen trying to wield an instrument the construction of which follows no logical or natural reason whatever.

"We once gave what seemed a quite useless club to a colored caddy boy and he went out next day and won the caddies' tournament with it. For this performance he received a prize of a stiff, new pair of shoes, which is another instance of the game's futility. This boy preferred not to wear any shoes, but if driven to cover his feet with something, he would never voluntarily have donned any such shoes as those.

"Of course golf will survive. It may go back to the days when people battered feather balls about a pasture with crooked sticks, but it will be there."

**One-Armed Putter Gets Hot**—Seventeen years ago, one-armed L. M. Evert, then mayor of Marinette, Wis., gave the dedication speech at the opening of Little River CC, 3 miles south of Marinette. Evert was not a golfer then, but 2 years later, when his son began rising at 5 o'clock to caddy, he took an interest in the game. Today he is the president of the club. In his golfing experience, Evert's sturdy right arm has given him many a triumph, but his greatest thrill came in 1940 when the Marinette club was playing at Oconto (Wis.) CC. In that tournament, Evert successively one-putted each of the nine greens!