

Iowa Greenkeepers Elect; Talk Weed Control

By H. L. LANTZ

Forty-eight greenkeepers and friends participated in the annual meeting of the Iowa Greenkeepers Assn., held at Des Moines (Ia.) G&CC. Officers elected: Pres., William Keating, Des Moines; V. P., Jack Anderson, Muscatine; Sec-Treas., T.E. Adams, 1000 Polk Blvd., Des Moines.

The group toured the Des Moines G&CC course. Problems of maintenance were discussed. To that date, no fungicides had been necessary. Weather conditions had been too cool for the development of brown patch, but ideal for dollar spot infection. However, dollar spot was not a factor in Keating's greens. A proper nitrogen feeding program is now recognized as good insurance against dollar spot infection. Greens pock marked with dollar spot are usually low in nitrogen.

An inspection of Waveland Golf Course showed Ted Adams had greens and fairways in excellent condition.

H. L. Lantz discussed the possible future developments in chemical weed control. Chief among the new chemicals is a growth promoting substance (a hormone) known as 2,4-D (2,4 dichlorophenoxyacetic acid). Its weed killing properties were discovered a year ago. A great deal of publicity has been given to this weed killer. Experimenters in many States are testing these new chemicals in order to determine to what extent these new and related chemical compounds would be adapted to weed control on golf courses. Iowa received four formulas from the E. I. DuPont Co., one from Dow Chemical Co., one from Dr. Davis of the Green Section. A series of plots, each containing 600 square feet have been established on No. 2 fairway at the Ames G&C. The first series of hormone sprays were applied at varying strengths on June 11; a second series on June 22. Two days after the sprays were applied, the dandelions showed marked changes in leaf color and in twisted and turned stems. In seven days, the dandelion leaves were purplish brown in color and July 5 every sprayed dandelion in the hormone plots was dead. There was an abundance of white clover in each of the twenty sprayed plots. There has been no clover bloom since the sprays were applied.

The white clover is definitely injured, but does not yield to treatment as rapidly as does the dandelion. The blue grass in the sprayed plots seems to have been shortened in growth but no killing or permanent injury can be detected at this date. The grass is growing and is not far from normal in appearance.

Dandelions in the turf garden were spot sprayed with 2,4D with excellent results and no injury to the bent grass is yet apparent.

Preliminary as are these tests, it can be stated fairly that dandelions readily yield to the 2,4D sprays. The formulas are readily soluble in water and are easily applied. The rate of application was five gallons per 1,000 square feet. Sprays will be applied through the summer and fall months to determine at what season of the year the best results may be secured or whether the sprays may be applied at any time during the growing season, with satisfactory results.

The turf or weedy fairways and lawns is usually "thin." When blue grass thins out, weeds, especially dandelions, take over. When the dandelions are killed steps will be taken to invigorate the blue grass by suitable fertilization. The next step in this weed control program will be to apply fertilizers to give the blue grass new food materials so that the turf will thicken up properly.

Jack Anderson extended an invitation to the Association to meet at Muscatine, August 13. The last meeting of the season will be held at Ames, September 9 and 10, to review the weed control work and the work on the turf garden.

Nest-A-Covers Are Wood Club Hood Unit

★ Irvin E. Schloss, pro at Hillendale CC, Towson, Md., has invented and now is having manufactured a wood club cover made in two styles to handle three- or four-club wood sets. Each club is kept in a separate compartment which is numbered on top. Compartments are opened and closed by zippers. The hood is called the Nest-A-Covers. It's made of durable and attractive weather-proof fabric developed for military use. Schloss was fortunate



in being able to get surplus material.

The Nest-A-Covers is tied to the golf bag. It prevents loss of covers and of clubs, and protects shafts as well as heads of the woods. The accessory has met with high favor among pros and amateurs. It's a fast-selling item in pro shops. Miller Golf Printing & Supply Co., Towson 4, Md. handles national distribution for Schloss. It's distributed to the pro trade by Wilson Sporting Goods Co.