

Brains and Hard Work Bring Iowa Thru Tough Year

By H. L. LANTZ

Iowa Agricultural Experiment Station

An unique top-dressing plan of Wm. Keating, supt., Des Moines (Ia.) G&CC is as follows:

About 1½ acres of ground are seeded to rye in the fall and plowed under in the spring when about two feet high. Soybeans, inoculated, are planted and turned under about August 15. This top soil by the following spring is ready to use for top-dressing, using equal parts of soil, sand and black peat. Bill has this prepared in advance of the season. He had enough top-dressing prepared to top-dress four times and this saved the day last wet spring. Top-dressings are applied once a month and always just after mowing.

The fertilizer program is as follows: In April, Milorganite at the rate of 200 lbs. per green is applied. The same amount of Milorganite is applied in September. The greens average 7500 sq. ft. At this rate, the coverage is about 27 lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft. At ten day intervals during the growing season, sulfate of ammonia is sprayed on the green at the rate of 2 lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft. Brown patch control has been excellent with Thiosan applied at the rate of 2 lbs. per green along with 2 lbs. of sulfate of ammonia which is sprayed on the greens at weekly intervals during the brown patch season. The procedure is to mix 6 lbs. of Thiosan into the 200 gal. spray tank, along with 6 lbs. of sulfate of ammonia. This 200 gallons of mixture is sufficient to cover three greens.

Frequent light applications of sulfate of ammonia are preferred to heavier doses at less frequent intervals. The frequent light applications tend to keep the available nitrogen on an even level, and the grass growing at an even rate—no over-feeding followed by a period of starvation.

Don't Let Subsoil Dry

Regular and systematic watering is practiced. No part of the green is neglected. "During the summer", said Bill, "if an area on the green doesn't get watered, it will soon become dry underneath, and from that time on it is next to impossible to make water penetrate the area." Every green on the Des Moines G & CC course is tile drained and is built a little higher in the center, thus giving good surface drainage. The greens are mowed and watered until the middle of November or later if needed. Keating maintains that there should be no excess grass on the green at the end of the season, and that the greens should be well watered before going into the winter.

Your reporter made the observation that weather conditions in April and May in Iowa were probably at the worst, too

much rain followed by torrential rains caused flooding which did tremendous damage to golf courses in many parts of Iowa. A tornado all but blew the Fort Dodge course apart, clubhouse, trees and all. But by hard work and long hours, C. B. Whitson, greenkeeper, and other club workers got the course back into condition and a good season of play followed.

George Veenker, who heads the Department of Athletics, Iowa State College at Ames, was the wheel horse in establishing the sporty Iowa State College golf course. The spring floods did a lot of damage to the course, and he, with the able assistance of Al Johnson, greenkeeper, did a great job in repairing the damage. Now that Al Johnson is in the army George has his hands more than full. George is a man of vision and has ideas worth listening to. Among other things he voiced the opinion that golf would have a boom following the war. He recommended that the greenkeepers were in a position to help build and maintain putting greens which could be established at the veterans' hospitals. Putting greens offer a form of light exercise which convalescing veterans would use and appreciate.

Timely Entertainment Makes Club Wartime Asset

By W. J. HENDERSON

Entertainment Chm., Davenport (Ia.) CC

★ CONSIDERING THE WHOLE SEASON, we have had our greatest turnout on Friday evenings. Originally this was a mixed golfers' dinner night due to the fact that we held our two-ball foursomes late Friday afternoons.

However, during the summers of 1944 and 1943 it has become more of a "family dinner night" due to the inability of members to drop into the club fairly early on Fridays. Furthermore, many men are out of town more, consequently it has been hard to pair up the foursomes.

However, the total members at dinner have been much greater which may be partly due to food rationing and home meal planning problems. Fortunately, our dining room has continued to operate at a very high standard considering the times.

In August, we held a two-ball foursome on Sunday and this was such a huge success that we repeated it again in September.

This Sunday affair started off with a splendid breakfast being served on the club porch at 10:30 a. m. Incidentally, this was an 18 hole, two-ball foursome affair whereas the ones held on Friday night were simply nine hole affairs.

On the Sunday affairs we had between 125 and 150 golfers playing which we feel is an unusually good turnout of a