

How to Recognize and Control Sod Web Worms

By CECIL E. SMITH

The sod web worm, common to the mid-western area on golf greens and turf, is the young of a white or silver colored moth. The moth has a wing spread of about three-fourths of an inch.

The female moth, flying low over moist turf, drops her eggs. The eggs resemble small cream colored beads. Watering and mowing tend to work the eggs down into the grass. Putting greens and watered areas make an ideal incubator for hatching the eggs. During dry periods, they are often the only moist places on a golf course.

The eggs will hatch in seven or eight days. The larvae feed on the grass leaves and form a burrow with a smooth lining or web. Hence the name web worm.

In two to eight weeks the worms complete their growth and make a cocoon of a silky substance and soil. The pupa take from ten days to two weeks to emerge from the cocoons as moths. Their wings dry in a few minutes and they are able to fly and start the cycle over again. The latter parts of June and August are the periods when infestation is liable to occur in this locality.

Sod web worms can be controlled by two pounds arsenate of lead in twenty-five gallons of water sprayed on one thousand square feet of turf. Allow to dry on the leaves. Also fifty per cent wettable DDT sprayed at the rate of one-half pound per one thousand square feet. The amount of water is not important as long as good coverage is obtained.

—Heart of American Turf News

MAINTENANCE PROCEDURE

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8. **Fungicides.** Treatment for brownpatch and dollarspot usually is necessary. Good control of brownpatch may be obtained by preventive treatment. Another more economical method is that of preventive treatment following the first attack. Brownpatch and dollarspot have occurred between late June and late September. Applications as frequently as every week are justified only occasionally in the light of experience here. Brownpatch never appears when the temperature falls below 68 degrees F. during the night. The late fall application of mercury will usually prevent injury from snowmold and is advisable with creeping bents which are susceptible to this disease. Persistent attacks of brownpatch may be lessened by



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