

## NEW TOPDRESSING "Wud-Loam" Shows Promise in Use on Southern Greens

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For years greenkeepers have diligently applied peat moss, or some other form of decayed vegetation, to their greens hoping to satisfy their ever increasing, more exacting members with a more luxuriant, truer putting surface. Many greenkeepers religiously dress either peat moss, IRO (pulverized cotton bolls), saw dust, peanut hulls, leaf mold, or motes (cotton seed) into their greens, hoping to get a better cushion into them. Any of these materials will help if properly handled, but each has disadvantages which must be offset, and usually you wish you had tried something else, before your greens absorb any one or all of these topdressings. I have tried, or seen tried, most of these materials with various methods and with varied results. Like the majority of greenkeepers I have talked to, I too have wished for a better solution to one of our "musts" with bermuda: namely, an organic substance that is porous and will stay down; neutral or alkaline in Ph; and more economically applied to a putting surface uniformly so that our heavy play during our application season (usually June) wouldn't be disturbed. I have high hopes for Wud-Loam Activated Mulch, an entirely new product, which I have tried, and like, as being the possible answer to our problems.

Wud-Loam Activated Mulch is made by shredding through grinding, of the bark of poplar, sweet gum and tupelo trees. The process is patented by Alexander Sales and Service, Athens, Ga. The bark is steam treated to remove tannic acid and other undesirable substances. Although Wud-Loam Activated Mulch is not a definitely proven product, as yet, I do not hesitate to vouch for its many promising features, assuming of course it too has its disadvantages. I like the way it tends to mat together, forming a complete coverage over any bare area. It is not as porous as peat moss, but its coverage of a surface gives the same results as a water preservative. Once it is broadcast over an area it stays put if you have any vegetation at all. It is fibrous and doesn't wash or ripple as easily, in the event of rain, as does the presently accepted humus. Therefore, it has advantages in preventing the dead spots we all have in the early spring in our bermuda greens.

Bermuda covers over an area of this mulch much as it does over a sanded area which is kept moist, and catches up

faster. I also like it for coverage on bermuda seed which we always try to plant heavier on our weak spots on the green. In repairing gouged out places on tees I know of no equal as Wud-Loam does not necessarily have to be dressed or watered in. It works well on paths from greens to tees; which we all have.

### Grass Comes Through Fast

If you wish to cover an entire green, you can get by with about one-half the usual work. Grass catches up quite fast through the application, and the worry of inconveniencing your play is decidedly minimized.

The material is finely shredded, with no sticks, rocks, or hard pieces of wood that will cause extra work. It is either broadcast onto your green by hand and swept in with a cane pole, or mixed with your soil and applied as a dressing. Lime, fertilizer or arsenate mixes well with it. It is applied at the rate of 50 lbs. to 1000 sq. ft. of putting surface, applications varying as you desire.

It is the best thing I have found for hillside greens that have sharp undulations which simply refuse to hold water. I estimate that green watering troubles will be cut by one-third if not more by proper applications. It, therefore, could and would help many amateur grass growers with their lawns.

Greenhouses say that Wud-Loam has advantages over former methods of mixing with their soil better, yet holding moisture, and is not as apt to cause a change of Ph on their flowers requiring a constant Ph. The material stained with Aurogreen will work fine on some unsightly place on your green, and minimizes questions. Humus patches on a green are always noticed, and discussed by the golfers who miss their putts.

Wud-Loam worked very well in treating areas that I found necessary to burn or pick on my greens during the summer season. It didn't pack nor allow the soil to pack in the treated areas. Fertilizer and lime were mixed in this application.

The experimental work I did with this product makes me enthusiastic about its possibilities, and I feel sure that individual experimental work, even on the northern grasses, would be worth investigating. If we are to progress as turf men, we must constantly be on the alert for new products which are sound and progressive. This testimony was unsolicited by the Alexander Sales people, and is solely a suggestion from me in compliance with a request from GOLFDOM to tell what I have seen that is new in course maintenance advances.