

## Prevention and Cure in Halting of Dollar Spot

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There are usually two ways to control diseases of man, animals or plants. One method is to cure the disease and the other is to prevent it before it occurs. In controlling diseases of fine turf, an ounce of spray chemical will often prevent disease that a pound of fungicide would not cure. In fact, an individual blade of grass can never be cured of a disease. A "curative" application kills the fungus and stops the disease and if the grass is not permanently damaged new growth replaces that which has been killed by the disease.

Recently there has been discussion on whether a curative spray or a protective spray is the best control practice for dollar spot on golf greens. Some golf course superintendents prefer to wait until they see dollar spot and then spray to cure while others spray at regular intervals throughout the season. In the areas where the summer season is usually cool and humid, regular spraying every 10 to 14 days is a common practice. Since dollar spot is favored by cool wet weather the curative spray is a risky practice under cool climate conditions. In other areas where the summers are hot and relatively dry, the curative spray program is commonly followed.

It is not possible to say which is the best practice to follow in most parts of the United States. If there is any doubt about the kind of weather expected, protective spraying should be done. Even if there is not a lot of dollar spot those few spots which always have occurred will be prevented. A few dollar spots may not be fatal to a well kept green, but if the few which do occur get in the path of a golfer's putt, the superintendent will be blamed. Protective spraying is like insurance against disease damage. The fungicide is there to protect against the disease if it starts. Since the fungus which causes the dollar spot disease is always present in practically all soils and lacks only the right weather to move into the succulent turf the insurance is worthwhile.

Test plots on fine turf in Michigan have shown for several years that regular spray applications of most common commercial turf fungicides will result in good control of dollar spot even in years when

the unsprayed plots had five spots per sq. ft. of turf. Plots were sprayed every 12 days and the chemical was used at the minimum rate recommended by the maker of the material. Some materials, such as Cadminate, gave near perfect control, and nine out of 12 materials used in 1951 gave good practical control. Protective spraying pays off in disease-free golf greens. Fine turf is worth the insurance that protective spraying gives against dollar spot damage.

## Grau Joins Murray in Grass Service Work

Fred V. Grau, who resigned earlier this year after 8 years as Director, USGA Green Section, has joined Frank Murray, in Grau-Murray Grass Service. The company's office is at Glen Road, Rte. 1, Rockville, Md. Telephone is Poplar 2-3378.

Prior to his Green Section work Grau for 10 years was extension agronomist in Pennsylvania.

Murray has been associated with golf course work for more than 15 years. He was green chmn., Congressional CC (Washington dist.) from 1937-39. He was on the construction of the Woodmont CC, Bethesda, Md., and at present is building the Patuxent, Md., course.

Grau-Murray Grass Service will grow and install sod of improved grasses and handle problems of improving grasses on existing grassed areas.

## Causes of Trouble on Iowa Courses

At meetings during 1952 our members agreed that the most common troubles on greens were:

1. Over watering—leads to compaction, shallow roots, and tender grass which won't withstand hot, humid weather in mid summer.
2. Too fine material used in top-dressing—leads to compaction and shallow root growth.
3. Infrequent mowing—leads to matty condition which in turn makes grass more susceptible to diseases.
4. Inadequate fertilizer program—greens should be fed lightly, but more frequently to promote steady growth and maintain constant color.
5. Aerifier not used enough on compacted greens.

—BERYL S. TAYLOR  
Pres., Iowa Greenkeepers' Assn.