GIVING TURF TROUBLES THE AIR

(L) Superintendent Vince Crockett on a green of seaside bent at the Del Paso CC, Sacramento, California. The green had been aerified earlier in the summer. When disaster hit and most of the seaside bent was destroyed by disease, thatch, humidity and heat, the grass around each Aerifier hole remained green and healthy.

(Above) Vince Crockett cut plugs and found root growth in the openings in the center of each living patch of grass. Evidently excess water contributed greatly to the destruction of grass. Even the roots in the openings were discolored, indicating saturated conditions and lack of proper oxygen supply.

(L) Supt. Vince Crockett and asst. (left) try a new cure. Green was aerified with ¾" special thatch spoons to remove troublesome deep thatch and mat. Vertical mower, (center) was used after aerifying, then top-dressing worked into openings to provide channels of sandy top-dressing soil. Area was dragged and mowed, leaving fine, firm playing condition. Interested onlooker is Alec Engart, Chrmn., Northridge (extreme right) and next to him John Reeves, H. V. Carter Co.

gen feeding with due regard to preventive fungicides, prevention of excessive thatch and other sound maintenance practices.

Q—Our association is thinking of putting out a Spring Lawn Bulletin for the members of our clubs. Do you think this is a good idea and where can we get help on it? (Ohio)

A—We applaud the idea. It is an excellent way to gain greater recognition for the members of your association and to make the club members aware of your abilities and helpfulness. You can get help from your county agent's office, from the state experiment station, and from the several agronomists associated with phases of the turfgrass industry as manufacturer's representatives.

Q—Where can I buy polycross bent seed? (Iowa)

A—Polycross bent is named Penncross creeping bent. At the moment there is no seed available anywhere. Seed is being produced and there should be a limited supply on the market late this summer.

Q—Why do some strains of grass pro-

duce usable seed while others do not? (Mo.)

A—The grasses have become intermixed over the years through cross pollination and some do not hold true to type where seed is used. Three vegetatively-produced parents were used in the production of the Penncross strain. Many off-types were produced and discarded before the best three were put together.

Q—Of what benefit is it to have roots in a putting green below the depth of 2½"? (Mass.)

A—Some of the good putting greens that we have seen have roots occupying the full depth of the top 12 ins. of soil. Some go even deeper. Grasses that are growing with deep extensive root systems like this are better able to withstand shock and they can go longer periods without water because the roots are ranging through a greater depth and volume of soil for moisture and nutrients.

The extra root cushion will mean a great deal in playing conditions giving a resilience to the turf that cannot be obtained with a shallow-rooted grass.

The grass growing on a deep extensive root system like this is much more likely to be healthy because it is more able to obtain a steady constant supply of moisture and nutrients and proper balance thereby enabling the grass to keep ahead of diseases. A deep extensive root system constantly dying and decaying is continually improving soil structure.

Q—Is methyl bromide dangerous to use? (Texas)

A—There is little horizontal movement of this material so only the treated area is affected.

However, caution should be observed for shrub roots growing near treated area. Usually treatment should be no closer to the base of a tree than the drip line, although it has been reported that citrus trees have been treated very near the trunk with no adverse effects.

Contact with the material is hazardous to personnel. Sensible precautions should be observed and do be accurate in following the manufacturer's directions for use.

Q—Is there yet a chemical treatment to control poa annua? (Ill.)

A—One of the things you can do is to apply lead arsenate at the rate of 10 lbs. to 1000 sq. ft. To obtain uniform distribution mix the material with topdressing and put it on early in the spring when the poa annua is just beginning to grow. This will retard the poa annua considerably and should help the situation until we have something better.

However, where there is a high level of phosphorous in the soil the results may be disappointing.

Q—I believe I can save our club money by building a fairway spray rig. What width and capacity do you recommend?

A—Frankly, we don't recommend building your own equipment. There is a considerable investment in the turf on a golf course and it is well worth while to invest the money in good standard equipment to take care of that turf.

Although "tailor-made" equipment may be slightly more expensive than home made, it has the advantage that replacement parts will always be available from the local supplier.

In case of a breakdown repairs can be made almost immediately to avoid possible loss of grass. Very often standard parts will not fit pieced-together "bastard" equipment, and then there may be a delay of days or even weeks before parts can be obtained. There can be a serious loss of turf during that waiting period.

We have seen too many cases where supposed savings on equipment turned out to be very poor economy. It is better to buy a standard make so parts and service will be available promptly.

Q—Is it absolutely necessary to water after fertilizing? (W. Va.)

A—The reason for watering after fertilizing is to wash fertilizer off the grass blades so it will not burn.

Brushing the fertilizer off the grass blades with a dragmat will accomplish the same thing. If an organic fertilizer is used there is less likelihood of burning the grass.

Q—Our fairways have had no fertilizer since the course was built over 25 years ago. We want to start on a program of fairway improvement but we can't agree on procedure. What do you suggest? (Calif.)

A—The first step is to make as complete an inventory as possible, including photographs. This will be for the record and for the guidance and information of you and your officials and those who will come after you.

Get a complete soil test—ask your county agent, your experiment station or other service bureau for details.

Make a record of the types of grasses and approximate per cent coverage of each—weeds, too. Now, with soil test reports and vegetation population figures in