

area may be overwatered insofar as the requirements of Merion are concerned.

Merion will do better with a constant, uniform supply of nitrogen as is supplied by an organic carrier. Don't drown Merion; do give it a steady food supply.

When management favors Merion it is a very vigorous grower, and tends to build up a surface thatch just as the aggressive creeping bentgrasses do. The right management for Merion tees includes close, frequent mowing ($\frac{1}{2}$ in. to $\frac{3}{4}$ in.) to prevent puffiness, and aerifying and vertical mowing as needed to control the surface thatch that harbors disease and insects.

Q—What are the symptoms of nematodes on bents? (Ky.)

A—The so-called "yellow tuft disease" of bentgrass long has been known. Usually this occurs in the early spring or in the fall and has not usually been considered too damaging because usually the grass recovers. Recent work has indicated this yellow-tuft condition is always associated with nematodes. The grass frequently takes on a rather chlorotic yellowish unthrifty appearance but positive determination of the presence of nematodes can be made only by a trained man and a microscope.

Q—Most of our greens have small amounts of the little white clover in them and a few have become quite infected. Is there any practical way to eliminate the clover without hurting the greens? (Ill.)

A—In the early days of golf when clover was much more prevalent on putting greens than it is now, much was discouraged by simply bruising with the back of a rake, then sprinkling with dry sulfate of ammonia crystals in the clover patches and allowing them to "cook" for an hour or two in the hot sun.

Following this, syringe with a hose to wash the crystals off the blades. This practice did two things—first, it severely damaged the clover because it has a broad leaf and it holds more of the sulfate than the narrow leaves of bent do, so it burned the leaves of the clover and drastically checked it.

Second, the sulfate of ammonia stimulated the growth of the grass and caused it to grow more rapidly and thus choked the clover by sheer competition. I think this is still a good method worthy of trying wherever the problem exists.

I would like to point out that a clover problem often is secondary to some other

factor in the management. Clover comes in because grass is weakened in some way. Disease, insects, mechanical injury, faulty irrigation practices, inadequate nitrogen, soil compaction—any one or more of these things may contribute to the problem.

Check every phase of management and try to overcome the things that are weakening the grass and allowing the clover invasion. I have seen greens that have been very heavily infested with clover become nearly pure bent greens in a year or two, simply by adhering to a sound program of management. Also, don't pass up the chance to crowd clover out by introducing the more vigorous, aggressive disease-resistant strains of bentgrasses. The use of 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T on greens must be approached cautiously.

Q—Our greens are almost, but not quite, solid Poa annua. The patches that aren't Poa are some badly matted foreign strain of bent. When we use the vertical mower, adjusted for the Poa annua, it tears up the matted bent. The members say that vertical mowing ruins the greens, though I don't quite agree because the patches of matted bent ruin the putting, anyway. What do you have to say about it? (Va.)

A—I think you are right that the patches of poor bent are detrimental to the putting surface. Vertical mowing has helped you to discover the trouble spots. They are like cancerous growths which you must discover and isolate before you can begin treatment.

I would suggest that you adjust the vertical mower so it will not dig too deeply into the bent. Gradually you will get the green uniform enough so that one setting of the vertical mower will be right for the entire area.

If you are dissatisfied with the quality of the bent, you could begin removing it by plugging it out and introducing plugs of an improved strain.

Bill Bengeyfield in Green Section New Western Office in L.A.

WILLIAM H. Bengeyfield, who succeeded Charles G. Wilson as Western Director of the USGA Green Section July 1 now is in the Green Section's offices at Los Angeles.

Through the cooperation of the Southern California Golf Assn., the Green Section's Western offices were moved from Davis, Calif. to the new location in the quarters of the Southern California Assn.,