

order to obtain the maximum quantity of material. By this method you will be able to plant fresh material at the time of your choosing. Be sure to roll the cores down firmly and keep them moist at all times until well rooted.

Q—We have been advised to use Dieldrin on our bent greens. Do you know of any reason that this material might be harmful? (Vt.)

A—We know of no evidence that would make it necessary to issue any warning against the use of Dieldrin on bent greens. Sometimes, injury may occur when an oil carrier is used but then the damage would arise from the carrier and not the insecticide.

Q—We have piles of sawdust all through the woods near our course and we can get it for the hauling. Will it be all right to use this as a source of organic matter in our greens? (N.C.)

A—Sawdust is a good material for incorporating into your greens as a source of organic matter, for conditioning the heavy soil and to help hold a shot. Neither the kind of sawdust nor the age of the material seems to be very significant so

long as you use enough nitrogen to feed the organisms that attack and break down the sawdust.

Yellowing of the grass in connection with use of sawdust usually means lack of nitrogen, not acidity necessarily. Limestone added will help to decompose the sawdust. A rate of 25 lbs. of dolomitic limestone to 1000 sq. ft. usually will be adequate whenever sawdust is used.

Q—We have some strains of Bermuda that throw seedheads, even under putting green conditions. They are unsightly and they interfere with putting. What can you suggest? (Ala.)

A—The old method used to be to hand-rake and mow closely and then cover with topdressing. In this mechanized age we eliminate seedheads and the bumpy putting with vertical mowing equipment, used frequently to keep them under control.

Frequent, heavy feeding with nitrogen-carrying fertilizer helps to keep the grass growing vigorously in a vegetative state with fewer seedheads. It may be that you should check the phosphorus levels in the soil and, if phosphorus is high, reduce phosphorus feeding for a considerable

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period until tests show that phosphorus is needed again.

Q—We hear a lot of discussion about “thatch” and “mat” but there seems to be a lot of disagreement on definitions. What is your explanation? (N.H.)

A—Let's start with grain because that is where most of our trouble begins.

Grain is the surface development of grass stems and blades which interfere with and affect the true roll of the ball.

Thatch is the next deeper layer of living material (stems, leaves, runners, stolons) which, together with the surface grain, acts like a “thatched roof” to shed water.

Mat is the dead felt-like material between the thatch and the soil.

In my definition it all begins with the grain. If we keep this under control we will automatically control thatch (living tissues) and mat (dead tissues).

Grain and thatch can be removed mechanically a little at a time and there will always be live grass to furnish a putting surface. To drastically remove grain, thatch and mat all at one time would

utterly destroy the putting green, leaving no living material to grow and produce a new putting surface.

Mat must be brought down chemically and biologically with living organisms, aided by aerifying to remove columns of mat leaving holes through which air, moisture, nutrients and roots can move freely into the soil below.

A limited quantity of mat may be tolerated because it may provide a certain amount of cushion to help hold a shot. This would be true only if repeated frequent aerifying is practiced to overcome the bad effects of the mat and if vertical mowing is done to prevent grain and thatch from forming.

WHAT PRO SHOULD KNOW

(Continued from page 52)

cated that in most cases the shop-boy would be wise to ship his refinishing problems to a suitable and experienced source.

Irons, as a rule, are able to withstand much more abuse than wood clubs. On iron clubs, the shop-boy does not encoun-

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