



Three Professionals Cultivating Their Crop of New Golfers

This is about half of the class of 158 kid golfers John Bobick, pro at Eberhart Park municipal golf course, Mishawaka, Ind., got after he'd kept at his campaign of giving free lessons to youngsters as one of the city's recreational services. There were enough loan clubs to teach all the kids at one time. The lessons ran weekly for six weeks and almost all the kids took full treatment, kept playing during last summer and have turned up again this spring, asking for renewal of the classes.

Bobick is at the left, and to his right are assistant professionals Ralph Snyder and Jim Shaw.

else except giving the grass what it needs when it needs it.

Q—Last year our Tiffine Bermuda greens became very bumpy due to seedhead formation. Is there any way to prevent this? (Ga.)

A—Generous fertilization with nitrogen helps to keep grass growing vegetatively, thereby reducing formation of seedheads. If seedheads do form, vertical mowing at frequent intervals (once or even twice a week) will keep them trimmed off and produce a playing surface that is much more satisfactory for golfers.

Q—We use a topdressing mixture of about 2 parts peat, one part sand and one part good soil (by volume). Is this a good mixture? (Ill.)

A—I think your topdressing could be changed to your advantage. High peat content would tend to keep roots shallow, soil soggy and retain plant foods at the surface. I would suggest a mixture of 60 percent coarse sand, 20 percent good soil and 20 percent peat (measurements by volume).

Q—Is Chlordane a good crabgrass control? (Calif.)

A—Chlordane is a good insecticide and you get your money's worth using it for that purpose. There are chemicals specifically suited for the control of crabgrass and I'd recommend using one of them where crabgrass is a problem. Sodium arsenite long has been used for this purpose. Potassium cyanate and phenyl mercury acetate are crabgrass controls. The newest and safest chemical, specifically for crabgrass control, is di-sodium methyl arsonate.

Q—How can we get rid of a mat under green turf, still keeping the surface in usable condition? (Ind.)

A—The mat is an accumulation of undecayed leaves and stems. Hasten the decomposition of this organic material by making conditions favorable for bacterial activity. This can be done through cultivation to mix soil with the organic material and by providing adequate aeration.

There must be moisture present, but not saturated conditions.

Addition of lime will be helpful if soil is acid and adequate nitrogen fertilizer should be used. Material on the surface may be removed by vertical mowing — do this a little at a time. Never try to cut deeply enough to remove thick mat in a single operation.

Do not bury the mat under a layer of topdressing. Be patient and extend your program over a period of time, using mechanical methods to remove the material from the surface. At the same time, provide favorable conditions for decomposition of the material underneath.

Q—What is the best way to get rid of clover in Bermudagrass fairways? (Tex.)

A—Brushkiller, a mixture of 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T, used according to manufacturer's instructions, gives good control. However, unless good cultural practices are carried out, another crop of weeds will come in. Adequate nitrogen feeding is a "must" to maintain good Bermuda coverage. Proper watering is also important. Don't drown Bermuda. Deep soaking only once every week to 10 days, depend-