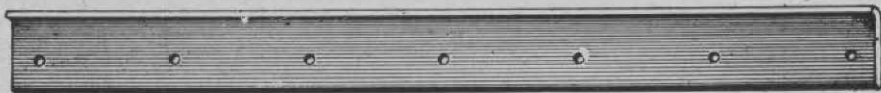


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toms of different types of wilt? (Ky.)

A. Early morning watering helps grass to dry more quickly for pleasurable play and for machinery operation. Disease reduction still is the big reason. There is no standard for "swishing" (syndring, showering-off). This largely is a case of judgment and constant watching. The cold water cools the grass, brings dissolved oxygen to the suffocating grass. Hot water contains very little oxygen.

The differences between "wet wilt" and "dry wilt" are subtle and difficult to describe. Dry wilt occurs on hard soil that lacks moisture. Wet wilt might look the same (footprinting) but the soil is wet, may even be "squishy." In the former it is the water that corrects the wilt; in the latter it is the oxygen in the water that once more permits the wilting grass to absorb some of the excess water.

Q. I believe it is generally agreed that it is a poor practice to feed bent greens with nitrogen in warm humid weather, or when we know such weather is approaching. If this is so, then wouldn't a spring application of one of the urea-formaldehyde fertilizers, (such as Uramite) in sufficient quantity to last all sea-

son be injurious to the extent that you would lose control of nitrogen feeding in hot weather? I realize this form of nitrogen is released gradually all season, but in warm, humid weather there would be no way to stop nitrogen release, thus increasing the chance of more rapid spread of disease. (Wis.)

A. It does not appear that the U-F fertilizers (Uramite, for example) release nitrogen "explosively" when hot weather comes as we have observed at times with natural organics under conditions of high heat and humidity. Release rate appears to be nearly constant and is not dependent upon temperature and humidity. Research data do not indicate any loss of control of nitrogen or any additional disease with the season's supply of N being applied at one time in the spring. It helps, naturally, to have a good sturdy strain of grass to start with. To date, it appears that we can say with assurance that the U-F fertilizers tested thus far are equal to the best organics in performance and N release is more constant.

Q. With winds of 35-45 m.p.h. I have trouble keeping sand in my traps in spite of steeply
(Continued on page 82)

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Turfgrass Questions

(Continued from page 64)

banking them to the limit for "good golf's sake." I use sand finer than "sharp" or concrete sand. I do this out of consideration for my greens mowers which wear very fast with coarse sand. What grade or density sand do you recommend to meet these conditions?

A. Your's is a difficult problem. It is useless to go to a coarse sand because of your mowers, and for player reasons. Pebbles on the green do not help the ball to roll true.

Have you considered planting a few clumps of bunch grasses in or near the traps to break the force of the wind? I have seen this done to good advantage. Broom sedge (*Andropogon virginicus*) is a native and grows well under poverty conditions. Another grass is Indian grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*) also a native.

Groups of bunch grasses can be very attractive, break the monotony of an expanse of sand and reduce wind erosion. Occasionally, a ball will come to rest in or near a clump which may not please the player but if you explain your problem to the membership I feel reasonably certain members will understand and will go along with you.

Q. At what height should fairways be cut in Apr.-June, and July-Sept.? (Ky)

A. Height of cut on fairways will vary slightly according to the kind(s) of grass present. For creeping bent and Bermuda — 1/2 in.; for bluegrass fescue — 3/8 to 1 1/4 in.

These suggested heights mean little because

the type of mower used will affect the way the grass is cut, even when all are set the same. Well fed grass will tolerate closer mowing than starved turf. Terrain will affect height if cut. Longer grass often is demanded on steeply sloping fairways to reduce roll of ball. Generally speaking, the height of cut should be the same the year around.

Q. We have three greens which are very hard, full of clay, and fine sand. Is there any way to repair them without rebuilding? (Ky.)

A. It is a long slow process to repair and change soil in a green without rebuilding, but it can be done. It will take regular aerifying and the use of a suitable topdressing material used generously and frequently. This does not mean that the green will be as satisfactory as though it had been rebuilt. It keeps it in play and minimizes annoyance of temporary greens. A change of grass during the process might be in order. This should be carefully considered.

Q. October, 1955, *Golfdom* stated that 2-4-D will weaken bent grass. For what types of weeds and when can 2-4-D be used on greens? What is a good herbicide for crowfoot? Craig Herbicide #1 for crowfoot and crabgrass has been suggested. What is its potential? (Ky.)

A. 2,4-D has little or no place on greens except under very unusual circumstances. From what I have seen my advice is to use disodium methyl arsonate for crowfoot and crabgrass on greens. DSMA has good potential. Phenyl mercury plus 2,4-D has been used but it must be handled with care and precision. Pre-emergence chemicals are not recommended on greens.