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PRODUCT ENGINEERING CO.

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arsenite treatments every 10 days to two weeks except in hot weather. Try it out in the nursery first to get the "feel" of sodium arsenite. Don't look for quick spectacular results because they will be gradual.

As we have said before, you can help give Poa annua the "bum's rush" by introducing more vigorous grasses, by keeping greens on the dry side, and by applying principles of aerating and vertical mowing.

Q—What is your opinion of the new Uramite fertilizer? Would you recommend it? If so, at what rate? (Wisc.)

A—Experimental evidence to date shows that Uramite produces results comparable to those developed from natural organics such as Mil-organic, Agrinite and seed meals. We do not yet have evidence that could warrant a statement that it is better than natural organics. Slow steady release of nitrogen is one feature—non-burning characteristics another. To offset this, natural organics carry phosphorus, potash and certain trace or minor elements. Uramite contains nitrogen only.

In some cases the lasting effect is only half as great as claimed, probably affected by compact soil, lack of aeration, excess water, and other factors. Some users attempt to correct by doubling the recommended quantity.

My last recommendation for any fertilizer is to follow manufacturer's directions. We have observed good results when fertilizer is applied following aeration.

Q—We want your advice on using sewage sludge on golf greens, such as in topdressing mixture; using it straight as topdressing; and using it in mixture in building a new green in place of peat. We may try this. (Ill.)

A—Raw or partially digested sewage sludge is not recommended to be used straight as topdressing on greens. I have seen bad burns on bentgrass from using sludge straight. If you were to spread the sludge out on a soil bed, disc it into the soil and let it compost for a year, you'd find it an excellent addition to the topdressing mixture. It can be used this way to replace part of the peat.

Sludge decomposes so rapidly that it would not be wise to depend upon this source alone for organic matter. In building a new green it would be very beneficial if sludge were used as composted material, disced and blended a year in advance into the topsoil that is to be used for the top 8-10 ins. on the green. A generous application of complete fertilizer high in P & K is recommended to be added to the soil bed in which the sludge is to be composted. Properly used, sludge can be a good material for supplementing the topdressing used on greens.

Q—Why is it better to apply all-organic fertilizer in the fall instead of the spring? (N. Y.)

A—Your query is reminiscent of the trick question asked by the prosecuting attorney—"Have you stopped beating your wife?" Any way you answer you are wrong.

Where did you get the idea that applying all

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Write: HIGHLAND CAR CO., Box 2222, Dept. A, Jackson, Miss.

Q—The organic fertilizer in the fall is best? I am not aware of any data to support that procedure. We have seen many good results from heavy late fall application, especially in the way grass starts strong early in the spring and recovers from injuries.

Regular applications of organics right through the season have become routine procedure. It's possible the practice to which you refer may have been done on some basis with which I'm not familiar. Further discussion would be most helpful, but you neglected to sign your letter and gave no address.

Q—Please examine samples of soil and sand I am sending and give me your opinion of the best mixture for topdressing my bent greens. (Pa.)

A—The soil appears to be dry loam with good physical structure. The sand is graded from coarse to fine, but most of it is what I would call coarse. This is good. With a good grade of peat or well decomposed sawdust on hand, I would suggest this mixture:

Sand, 7 parts by volume

Clay loam, 2 parts by volume

Organic material, 1 part by volume

I am sure that you will be much better satisfied with this mixture if you can make it up a year ahead, treat it for weed seeds (sterilize with cyanamid or methyl bromide), and let it develop a "bond" between the particles. This will give the micro-organisms a chance to oper-

ate and develop some aggregates before you use it. It will be best if you continue to use the same mixture year after year.

Q—Would you give us your solution to hard greens? Our greens will not hold a shot unless they have been soaked with water. It is the opinion of several members that an aerifier would solve our problem. (Ala.)

A—Your members who believe in aerifying are to be commended. It will help in a large way but it is not an end in itself. You need also to grow roots so as to have a cushion of turf which will hold a shot. To grow grass it takes regular adequate feeding and sensible watering. Aerifying helps in several ways; it loosens soil mechanically, thus making it softer and better able to hold a shot without being soaking wet all the time; it lets air, water and fertilizer deep into the root zone, thus helping to grow roots and well cushioned turf.

If you would send me a sample of the soil in your greens I could give you a more accurate answer on how and when to aerify and what to add after aerifying. Please tell me something of your fertilizing program and the kind of grass you have on the greens. You should know by now that I am a staunch advocate of using the right grass and feeding it adequately.

I might add that the excess moisture in the soil, designed to help soften the soil to hold a shot, actually works just the other way, making the soil harder. Grass roots need lots