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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

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of air. Without air (drowned) they suffocate and can absorb neither water nor fertilizer. Not only do the roots drown but they starve and die of thirst.

My suggestion is to aerify in four directions to get thorough cultivation. Revamp your fertilizer and water program and repeat the four-way aerifying each month until you can let the greens go a week in dry weather with no irrigation and have them hold a shot perfectly. We can go into details when I see some of the records of your operations. A soil analysis report also will help.

Q—Do you think our club should finance trips to turf conferences for its supt.? (Va.)

A—The best answer I can give is a direct quote from the Mid-Atlantic News Letter for May, 1956:

"Any supt. who misses these conferences is not doing justice to his club; and any club that does not send its supt. to the conference is not doing the right thing in the best interests of its members!"

Q—We have inherited a large supply of dinitro-sec-butyl-phenyl (dinitro-ortho-secondary-butyl-phenyl) (DNSOBD) 6.9 per cent petroleum oil, 79.7 per cent, remainder, inert. What is the recommended dosage and usage?

A—The answer to this one comes from John Gallagher, American Chemical Paint Co., Ambler, Pa.:

This combination can be used safely only where complete kill of all vegetation is de-

sired, such as driveways, sand traps, etc. There would be no selectivity. It is recommended that it be used just as it comes from the can the same as you would use an oil spray.

Byes to Low Qualifiers

Orville Chapin, pro at Ft. Wayne (Ind.) CC, remarks that the customary method of allotting byes isn't logical — and there are many golfers who will agree with him and approve a change.

Chapin says:

"A qualifying round is a process of elimination; the weaker players are thrown out. My idea of the present method is that the better player is at a distinct disadvantage. For instance in a flight of 32 where only 28 players compete the four lowest qualifiers have to play two rounds to get to the quarter finals whereas the 13th, 14th, 15th, and 16th qualifiers only have to play one round to enter the quarter finals. In such a case four of the higher qualifiers have an advantage because of inferior play in qualifying.

"My idea is that any byes should be distributed to the lowest qualifiers. That is, if there should be four byes they should be allocated to the four lowest qualifiers."