

ments on their successes and failures with various grasses as well as questions on choosing the right grass.

**Q**—Our bent greens have a poor winter color. What can we do to improve the color? (Va.)

**A**—Some bents naturally lose their good green color with freezing weather. Washington bent is one of the best examples but even strains with best late fall color become dull in weather that alternately freezes and thaws. About the only thing you can do is spray some green grass dye for quick relief. Grass that is fertilized adequately with nitrogen, balanced with P and K, will hold green color longer than hungry grass.

**Q**—Last summer we were forced to water our greens frequently to prevent wilting and loss of grass. The turf got quite thin and algae appeared, especially in low spots and where there was heavy traffic. Is the same thing likely to happen again? (Pa.)

**A**—Yes, particularly if you do not do something to improve drainage and aeration. The soil probably is compact and crusted. This excludes air (oxygen) from the roots. Water lies on the surface to cause "scald"

which further complicates the problem. Aeration, or cultivation, is of first importance. Deep placement of fertilizer will encourage heavier rooting. By improving the infiltration of water it will be possible to keep the surface drier. Algae can not grow when the grass is dry.

**Q**—We have heard that hydrated lime lightly dusted on greens will check algae. What can you tell us about this? (W.Va.)

**A**—Many authorities recommend, and supts. use, hydrated lime at 2 to 5-lbs. to 1,000 sq. ft. when algae appears. The lime tends to dry the surface quickly. The rapid change in pH also is believed to check the growth of algae. To apply the material in water as a spray does not seem to do the same amount of good. Mixing the hydrated lime with screened topdressing helps get it distributed uniformly. It is not necessary to water it in. Footprints may tend to cause slight burning. Late afternoon applications will help to minimize this.

**Q**—In applying green dye to warm-season grasses, is it best to wait until the grass is dormant and brown? We have heard that it sticks better if it is done while bermuda or zoysia still retains some of its natural

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