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Write to Arden Jacklin, Dishman, Wash.

Q. I have been assigned to the job of the upkeep of the course at a U. S. Naval Base. This is a new kind of job for me. I would appreciate any kind of help you can give.

From all the complaints I have heard, and from what I can see, the big problem is the greens. The grass is green in spots only, and the greens arcn't smooth. In the past they've been using potash and sand mixed for dressing the greens. Is this proper? What kind of grass seed do you recommend for this climate (90° temperature every day)? For what reason do you use an acrificr? How often should you water the greens and what time of the day?

How close should the greens mower be set to cut? As you see, I don't know anything about a golf course and I imagine I'll have a rough time learning the tricks of the trade. (Navy No. XXX)

A. A program of topdressing would seem to be in order to smooth the greens for better putting. A sandy soil usually is best, preferably rendered weed-free by sterilization with chemicals or gas.

Grass green only in spots would indicate hard soil and excessive run-off with water collecting in the low places. The answer is aeration to obtain moisture control – get the water into the soil where it falls – apply







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water slowly so that the soil absorbs it as fast as it is applied.

Chances' are the principal fertilizer requirement is nitrogen to stimulate growth and color. It would be well to have soil tests made at your nearest soil testing laboratory.

A vigorous fine-bladed vegetative Bermuda should be your putting green grass. Seed is not likely to give you the results you are looking for.

Aerating equipment is used to get water, air and fertilizer into the soil to get more effective use of water and fertilization and to promote deep rooting.

Watering should be done as needed with emphasis on deep soaking at long intervals with hand watering in between to maintain growth and color. Well-fertilized grass needs less water than hungry grass. It is a mistake continually to use water as a "soil-softening tool." Best time to water is early morning to wash the dew off the blades. This reduces disease and the grass dries faster, enabling the mowers, and play to start sooner.

The best height of cut for a greens mower is in a range between 3/16 and 1/4 in. If set higher than 1/4 the grass tends to get matted and produces a poor putting surface.

Q. I am writing you in regard to yellowish green looking spots on my greens. I have tried different kinds of fertilizer but they don't help much. These are spots about 12 or 18 ins. across scattered over the green. I had trouble with them last year for the first time. All come about this time of year. I think aerifying might help. What do you think?–(Kans.)

A. We have racked our brains for an answer to your problem of yellowish-green spots on your greens but draw a blank. From the limited description, we fail to recall anything in our experience that matches this.

Our first thought is that the spots may be a particular strain or type of grass. This is a wild guess, not knowing the kind of grass on the greens. It is possible that it may be nematodes. Without a description of the kind of trouble it is very difficult to diagnose, especially 1300 miles away.

We urge you to take your problem to Dr. Ray Keen at the Agricultural College at Manhattan, Kans. This requires on-the-spot inspection and diagnosis.

Q. Our grass greens suffer severely from "winterkill" and smothering from ice and snow which covers them all winter. Would it help if the greens were to be covered in fall with light tree branches, with straw thrown over the branches? (S. D.)

A. First, let us analyze the problem. "Winterkill" might be dessication (drying out) in early spring when the ice and snow are gone. Dry winds can remove moisture from the blades of grass while the soil still is frozen and the roots thus don't get enough moisture.

"Winterkill" could be severe snowmold at-