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**MANUFACTURER'S SPECIALTY CO., INC.**

**2736 Sidney Street**

**St. Louis 4, Mo.**

Everyone does the best he knows how. No one likes to lose turf. So far as we know, no system is foolproof nor can it completely prevent loss of turf when the going is really rough. The point to remember is, let us learn all we can about the causes and profit from any mistakes that may have been made.

## South's Worst Pest

**Q.** Is there anything new on silver crab or crowfoot grass? This still is our worst pest in the South. (Louisiana)

**A.** The important thing about goosegrass (crowfoot) is to avoid planting the seed (which you do when you use unsterilized soil for topdressing). The next step is to create strong, dense, sturdy turf by adequate fertilization. Goosegrass can be choked out of bermuda turf by fertilizing sufficiently.

There are several forms of di sodium methyl arsonate which are very effective in reducing or destroying this weed. Consult your Experiment Station for detailed advice.

Is it possible that diseases have thinned your to let the crowfoot invade? Perhaps a change to a better strain of grass would help.

## Sterilized Topdressing

**Q.** We recently completed topdressing our greens with the following preparation: manure,

sawdust, sand and activated sewage sludge. This mixture was run through a hammer mill for mixing and to pulverize it. Now we have several kinds of weeds and toadstools growing. What would be the best procedure to sterilize this mixture before topdressing? (Wyoming)

**A.** Until you have sterilized your topdressing mixture, it would be far better to use no topdressing at all. When you do sterilize it, most of the nutrients in the manure and the sludge will be released so that they will be quickly available. Much of the nitrogen may be lost into the atmosphere.

Two materials used for sterilizing soil are Dowfume and Vapam. Your golf course supplier can give you details on the two materials and the methods of using them.

## Poa Annua Invasion

**Q.** During the past two years our greens have shown an increasing infestation of poa annua. What treatment do you recommend to prevent further encroachment of the bentgrass? (Nebraska)

**A.** It would be wonderful if it were possible to wave a magic wand and say, "Poa annua, begone!" but that seems like a remote possibility. The invasion of poa annua is so largely tied up with management that it seems necessary to review the methods by which it is encouraged. Then, by reversing our thinking, we may come a little closer to how to prevent its spread.

Poa does best when soils are saturated con-

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tinually. It suffers and may disappear when moisture levels drop and poa wilts.

Poa invades best when competition is weak. You may have weak grasses to begin with, or the grasses you have may have been weakened by disease or by malnutrition. Damage to turf during the period when poa is germinating will provide ready means for invasion.

With frequent light watering, poa will thrive at the expense of sturdier grasses which can survive with infrequent deep soakings. When drainage is poor, it may be necessary to water lightly and often to maintain any growth. Under these conditions we may expect to live with poa.

Maximum balanced nutrition will strengthen perennial grasses, helping them to resist poa. Periodic hunger cycles are an aid to poa.

Chemicals will kill poa. Sometimes they kill bents, too. Lead arsenate is a relatively mild chemical that will discourage poa if the phosphorus content of the soil is low. With high soil P, lead does not work well. Some of the newer materials kill poa easily at very low concentrations. The results are not always happy. We greatly prefer the management approach.

Briefly summarizing, poa can be discouraged by less watering; by letting the turf show moisture stress occasionally; by feeding the bents at maximum levels; by controlling diseases so that they do not weaken turf and invite poa invasion; by twice-a-year use of arsenate of lead; by allowing phosphorus levels to drop; by using the strongest bents; by improving drainage.

## Men's Amateur

The USGA Amateur Championship will be played at Broadmoor GC, Colorado Springs, Colo., Sept. 14-19. Entries are open to male amateurs with handicaps not over four strokes and must be received by the USGA by Aug. 12. Sectional qualifying rounds will be played at 34 sites throughout U. S. on Aug. 31 and Sept. 1. The championship proper will be played at match in eight rounds. Charley Coe of Oklahoma City is defending champion.

## Women's Amateur

USGA Women's Amateur Championship will be played Aug. 24-29 at Congressional CC, Washington, D. C. Entries must be received by the USGA by Aug. 6. There are no qualifying rounds and the championship will be played at match in seven rounds. Entries are open to women amateurs with handicaps not over six strokes and will be accepted from the 128 applicants with lowest handicaps. Last year's vacancies will be offered to alternates in order of handicaps. The field is being limited for the first time. Anne Quast, Marysville, Wash., a June graduate of Stanford University is defending titleholder.