

Asphalt Mulch Gives Fine Results on Akron Merion Blue Project

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Last July we had a seeding job to do on a very windy spot adjacent to the parking lot at our club. We decided that a straw mulch was out of the question. For one thing it is quite messy. And, it's something of a fire hazard, too. So, we had to select some other type of mulch for the 10,000 sq. ft. that were to be planted to Merion blue.

A few months before, I had read where someone in Oklahoma had experimented with asphalt as a mulch and for erosion control when planting seed on banks. A little investigation showed that the name of the material that had been used is Teralas, made by Shell Oil Co. We decided to try it.

We started the planting right in the heart of the crabgrass season. We hoped the black asphalt would inhibit germination of crabgrass seed by shutting off the rays of the sun. Teralas did just that. Not a single blade of crab came up.

Deep Penetration

Before planting, we applied lime and fertilizer and soaked the area to get deep penetration (to 18 ins.). The Merion was applied at 1 lb. per 1,000 sq. ft. It took less than 50 gals. of Teralas to cover the plot. The material was applied with a 15 gal. sprayer, powered by a 1 hp motor. At first, we had a little trouble with clogging, but soon found that this can be overcome by heating the asphalt.

The film of asphalt applied was no thicker than a sheet of paper. After a month the asphalt could no longer be detected.

The results were gratifying. We got a perfect, weed-free stand of Merion. It started to come up in 10 days and by September the growth was so thick that the area could be used as an auxiliary parking lot.

As I see it, here are the advantages of using asphalt mulch:

- There is no fire hazard.
- Erosion can be controlled.
- Seed germinates faster.
- Grass is kept weed- and crabgrass-free.

WGA Opposes Irresponsible Course Condemnations

Condemnation of golf courses for school sites and other public purposes has been denounced by Harold A. Moore, pres. of Western Golf Assn., as "an easy way out" for officials who are not exploring the availability of adequate and attractive acreage elsewhere.

"It is a source of alarm to WGA and to golf that school and public officials, particularly in the Chicago area, have selected courses as the easiest way of acquiring substantial tracts of land," Moore explained.

The WGA pres. added that there is an acute shortage of golf facilities in the U.S. in light of population growth and the increase in the popularity of golf.

At Moore's behest, Western Golf has adopted a resolution opposing indiscriminate condemnation of all or portions of golf courses for public use which can be served adequately through acquisition of other properties. The resolution urges golf clubs and organizations to bring about public recognition of the evils of this irresponsible trend.

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- There's no messy straw to clean up.
 - Less seed is required to get good turf.

One small planting, of course, doesn't make a golf course, but I think that the asphalt mulch idea is something other supts. would do well to look into. If they're having trouble getting grass to grow and stick on banks, here would be a good place in which to experiment. When the PGA Championship is played at Firestone in 1960, we will have to do a lot of re-vamping. Use of asphalt mulch is going to play a big part in this work.

°Bill Lyons reports that on April 18th, he was the guest star on a 30-minute show at KYW-TV, Cleveland, in which homeowners were given tips on lawn care.

RCGA Annual Report

Report of the President of the Royal Canadian Golf Assn. was recently released. It states that membership dues in 1958 reached a record increase of \$3,349. Net revenue over expenditures amounted to \$4,459, the lowest it has been since 1954. The report touches on the activity of the Assn. tournament committee, Junior promotion and development, the green section committee, public relations and international matches.