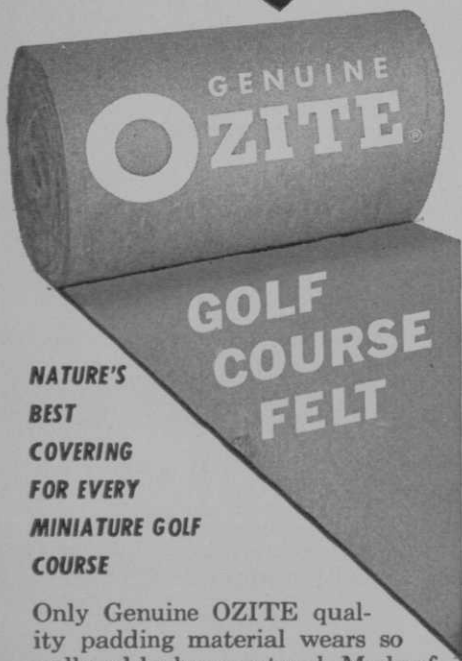




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count, the total cost for sufficient nitrogen to grow grass properly probably amounts to more than 10 or 12 per cent of the annual budget.

Club Needs Superintendent

Q. We have a major problem and that is lack of proper maintenance and upkeep of our greens. Our course is located in the Black Hills and we are unable to employ a permanent supt. Our playing season is relatively short, running from May 15 through Sept. 15. We do not have extremely hot and humid weather. We do have long winters with a large amount of snow, generally averaging around 12 ft. As a result there's considerable snow mold. We brush the greens as soon as the snow is off.

We do not have an aerating machine. So our greens have been aerified only once in many years. They have been topdressed twice in the past four years with 70% sand, not too fine, 30% dirt and other fertilizers, generally sludge. Other than being topdressed twice in a long time, we generally fertilize early each year after the snow is off. That is about the extent of upkeep. We have some chickweed, poa annua and other foreign matter. Test of plugs from our greens by state laboratories revealed that the pH is too high.

Our course was built in 1935. Our greens are bent and I understand very good materials were used in construction. The drainage is away from the green and is very good.

I would appreciate it if you would outline a definite program to aid in rebuilding our greens. Also explain the value of aerifying and topdressing and why so much sand is used. This will aid in explaining to our directors and members what is needed and the value of upkeep.

(South Dakota)

A.: A short playing season does not seem to be a valid reason for not having a full-time supt. A year-round man could assist with many things other than grass during the winter. With a good supt., many of your present problems would be cared for routinely.

It is quite possible that your greens are in need of a thorough thatching. Aero-thatching removes unwanted, excess material, and, at the same time, the one machine cultivates and aerates the soil. The playing surfaces are left intact. Water and fertilizers easily enter the rootzone. A good time to do the job is in spring when growth has started. Healing is much faster under these conditions.

In your case, and wherever minimum maintenance is desired or necessary, a twice-a-year feeding program is in your favor. For this you could make a spring application of a solid ureaform at 15 lbs. to 1,000 sq. ft. preferably just after aero-thatching. In late summer you would make an application of 0-20-20 at 5 lbs. to 1,000 sq. ft. plus 10 lbs. of solid ureaform. This is your entire feeding program.

Chickweed, poa annua and other foreign matter may be planted with unclean topdress-

(Continued on page 75)

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Grau's Answers

(Continued from page 44)

ing. If the soil is weedy the greens will be weedy. A good supt. could give you clean greens by building a supply of sterilized top-dressing.

Sandy loam is highly desirable for drainage and aeration and to reduce compaction. A clay soil quickly becomes sealed against infiltration of water and nutrients.

Soil and grass benefit from periodic cultivation. New fresh growth always is more disease resistant than old plants. Machines that remove thatch at the same time they cultivate and aerate very effectively stimulate new fresh growth in the places where the old plants had been. Topdressing fills in all the small depressions, makes the putting surface smoother and helps the grass to heal more quickly.

The statement, ". . . a test . . . revealed that the pH is too high," cannot be accepted at face value. The actual pH figure should be stated. Many excellent bent greens are in play, growing on soils of pH 8.0 to 8.5. Adequate nutrition with non salt-forming fertilizers will help you grow good grass with soil of high alkalinity.

Arizona CMAA Aids Turf Research

In the last two years the Arizona Club Managers Assn. has turned over \$4,500 to the Experimental Station of the University of Arizona for turfgrass research. Funds have come from the Arizona chapter's treasury as well as from clubs which have made contributions at the urging of the CMAA. At the Station, researchers are experimenting with 80 varieties of grass grown in various soils and under different weather conditions in an effort to supplement Bermuda that does not hold up throughout the entire year.

Women's Western Amateur

The 61st consecutive amateur tournament of the Women's Western GA will be played July 31-Aug. 5 at the Annandale GC, Pasadena, Calif. The entry deadline is July 24. The field will be limited to 128 players.

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