

tion to help cover over the surface disturbance. If the topdressing material isn't sterilized, it may be best to learn to get along without it. There is no sense in reseeding greens to weeds every time you topdress.

In maintaining greens these considerations are important: (1) The soil must be loosened (aerated and cultivated) occasionally to get water, air, and nutrients to the rootzone; (2) thatch (accumulation of undecayed plant material) must be removed to such a degree that continuous firm healthy growth may result.

Machines that punch holes in the turf do limited cultivating and loosening but they aid in letting water, air and nutrients into the rootzone. The operation of vertical mowing equipment following aerating removes some of the thatch from the surface but cannot get at troublesome, deep-seated thatch.

None of these machines should be used on new Pennncross greens until you begin to experience difficulty in getting water into the soil. Allow at least a full year to elapse before starting soil treatments unless trouble shows up sooner.

A better mixture for topdressing may be four sand, two soil, one peat. Too much peat may cause serious difficulty by retaining too much water.

### Eliminating Clover

Q: We have a problem of clover on our nine greens. It is coming in more and more each year but up to last summer there was not too

much. One green was just full of it.

A supply company salesman told me that some supts. are using 2,4,5-T to eliminate the clover condition on greens and said this would not harm the bent grass. Our grass is Seaside bent. (Illinois)

A. You may use 2,4,5-T on greens to control clover but use it at only about one-quarter recommended rate. Repeat as needed. Be sure to maintain a good feeding program. Clover can be reduced, and even eliminated, by a good nitrogen feeding program balanced with low P and medium K.

### To Prevent Erosion

Q: On our course we have a very steep hill with a fairway at the bottom. The side of the hill is covered with rock to prevent erosion. We plan to cover it with dirt and plant over the rocks. Can you tell me what you recommend for this situation? (Wisconsin)

A: I suggest use of Penngift crownvetch. It will grow in unbelievably low fertility conditions and do a good job of preventing erosion while, at the same time, create a very attractive appearance. It needs no maintenance on a rocky hillside.

With crownvetch there is no need whatsoever to cover the rocks with dirt. If you use seed it lodges in the pockets and crannies and crags and will spread very nicely to cover the rocks.



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