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Rhodesgrass Scale Is New Headache for Florida Supts.

By JACK BERNARD

(Supt. De Solo Lakes G&CC, Bradenton, Fla.)

Among the headaches that are inevitable in a business that depends somewhat on the whims of Mother Nature one of the more recent ones in this part of the country is Rhodesgrass scale in our greens. It appears in August and September and quickly wrecks a goodlooking green.

This Rhodesgrass scale is often overlooked because it is inconspicuous until its damage becomes apparent and, at the same time, beyond repair. Grass injured by this scale has an off-color yellowish appearance, and if not correctly treated may be killed. If greens have this appearance and no insects are found in the yellowed thin area that do not respond to fertilizer and water, it is suggested that the grass be closely inspected for Rhodesgrass scale.

Checking for Scale

A tip to the superintendent who is not familiar with the scale: In looking over the green that you at first may have sus-

pected was hit by pythium, take a magnifying glass and inspect the grass closely. You will find at joints of the grass a small gray or, when matured, white cottony ball the size of a pinhead. When you remove this and squeeze it between your fingers the exuded substance will be the color of light blood.

The remedy that I have found works is to spray the greens with Parathion or Trithion. I have used both with equally satisfactory results, but as of Feb., 1962, Parathion use has been prohibited as dangerous. We can use Trithion although precautions must be taken. When about to spray for Rhodesgrass scale, I close one nine for the day, then treat the other nine the next day. In one week the treatment is repeated. Two treatments usually control the scale.

Question of Emulsion

Some superintendents advise using an emulsion with the Trithion. I don't because I have found that use of emulsion with the material tends to discolor the grass, especially when the treatment must be repeated.

The USGA green section's Southern Turfletter says that U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (Bulletin 1221) advises that systemic insecticides such as demeton and

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schradan at 3.6 grams in at least ½ gal. of water per sq. yd. as a soil drench, give best control on greens.

60-70 Day Cycle

The Turfletter reports that the life cycle of Rhodesgrass scale is 60-70 days and that there are five generations annually, depending on local climatic conditions. The scale thrives under moist conditions that promote good plant growth even with high temperatures. Under drought conditions the scale soon kills the plants and dies itself. Most of the dispersion of the scale is brought about by a means other than the activity of the scale; namely by agents such as animals and wind.

Another and lasting headache that the superintendent almost always begins to suffer the minute he gets in our business is that of not having the budget provide enough money for what he thinks should be done and wants to do.

The strange thing about the profession of golf course management is that so many of us talk first about the money we need for our courses. In most businesses and professions they talk first and worry later about the money and men wanted to do a job.

Founders Lots at Half Price

The Ledges CC, organized to build a course, clubhouse, etc. and sell 100 adjacent residential lots on its Roscoe, Ill., site, is making its initial campaign to Rockford, Ill. and Beloit, Wis., prospective members on the basis of a Founders' Group of 50 having privilege of buying "lots at half their listed price from the to-be-subdivided Ledges Club Estates which surround the course." Lots overlooking the course run from \$1000 to \$4500.

The directors advise the prospective member-lot buyer: "Three hundred dollars of your \$500 initiation fee can be added to your lot purchase price . . . Should you choose not to buy real estate at this time, we will accept your check for \$500 and give you back a \$300 non-interest bearing ten year note."

Raynor With Snead

Harvey Raynor, formerly PGA Tournament Bureau mgr. and last year golf manager at Dorado Beach, Puerto Rico, now is associated with Royal Little, Robert Trent Jones, Sam Snead and Gary Nix-on in the Snead courses project.