

Grau's Answers

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activity starts in the spring. Start the program early enough in the fall to allow plants to "harden off" for maximum winter survival.

How to Convert

Q. We have a few greens that originally were seeded to Colonial and Highland bents. During a recent attack of dollarspot we nearly lost these greens in spite of a good nitrogen feeding program. Each time we changed cups we would throw away the old plug and use a fresh Pennncross plug from the nursery. Not one of those Pennncross patches had a single dollarspot. My chairman and I agree that we should convert to Pennncross but we are not agreed on the method. We do not want to rebuild and keep the green out of play. Can you help us? (Michigan)

A. To keep the greens in play and to preserve contours, I suggest multiple spiking followed by hydroseeding $\frac{1}{2}$ pound of Pennncross seed to 1,000 sq. ft. You can do this twice a year at low cost, using your power sprayer, and gradually convert to Pennncross. Space prohibits giving detailed instructions here. Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope for a mimeographed

sheet on hydroseeding to GRAU, College Park, Maryland, 20740.

"Seeding" with Algae

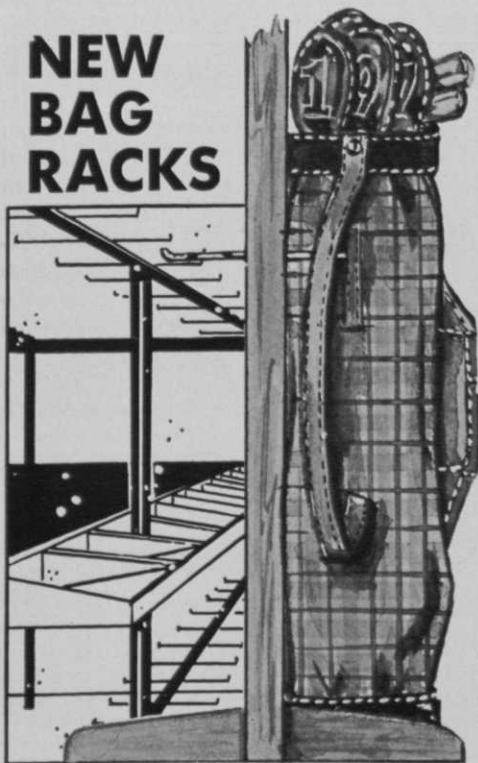
Q. Our lakes on the course constitute our water supply. There has been no rain for weeks and the water is low and green with algae. We know that we are "seeding" our greens with algae every time we water but we can't help it. We don't dare try to kill the algae in the lakes because of our wild life. Is there anything we can do to counteract the algae? (Texas)

A. Yes, you can irrigate heavily at the longest possible intervals to keep the greens surfaces as dry as possible. Algae can thrive only with continuous ample moisture. Spiking the dry greens surfaces will let air through the algae crust. Periodic light dusting or spraying with hydrated lime will effectively reduce algae with no harm to the grass. Use one-quarter to one-half pound hydrated lime to 1,000 sq. ft. Apply in late afternoon and allow lime to remain on leaves overnight. Pray for rain. Hook up to city water.

Change in Fertilizer

Q. "For the last several years we have used ureaform (38%) as the principal source of nitrogen on our putting greens. Recently we were advised by some students that this is wrong and that it would be better to make weekly applications of soluble urea (45%). What is your opinion?" (Indiana)

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