

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 Penncross plug from the nursery. Not one of those Penncross patches had a single dollarspot. My chairman and I agree that we should convert to Penncross 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 Penncross seed to 1,000 sq. ft. You can do this twice a year at low cost, using your power sprayer, and gradually convert to Penncross. 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

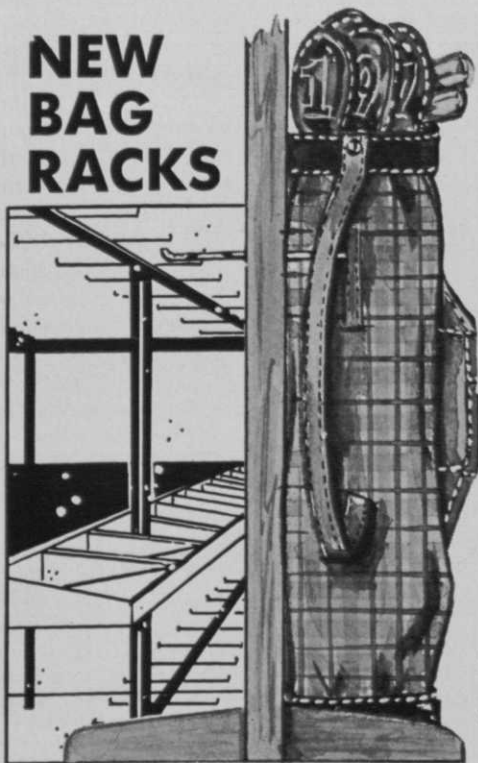
Q. Our lakes on the course constitute our water supply. There has been no rain for weeks and the water is low and green with algae. We know that we are "seeding" our greens with algae every time we water but we can't help it. We don't dare try to kill the algae in the lakes because of our wild life.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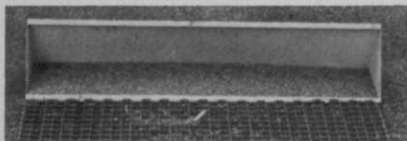
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• Augusta Georgia



Len Kennett, who is moving from San Gabriel CC, where he has been for seven years, to a new club being built by L.A. county on the Palos Verdes peninsula, was given a testimonial dinner by 200 San Gabriel members at his leavetaking. Len is shown with his wife and Bud Godfrey (r) club president. Club gave Len and his wife a beautiful silver service set and other gifts plus appreciation plaque seen in photo

A. Urea has a price advantage (per pound of N) but weekly treatments will be far more costly in terms of labor. Ureaform builds residual N in the soil which permits you to supply a year's requirement in four applications. Urea must be applied weekly in small doses to avoid burning. Urea creates no reservoir of residual N to let you "coast" through the hot months.

Everything considered you probably should stay on your residual nitrogen program.

Fairy Ring Infestation

Q. "We have fairy rings in several parts of our course. They are unsightly and occasionally we lose grass. The soil always seems dry and it smells like mushrooms. What are your suggestions?" (Ohio)

A. Since a mushroom fungus (one of several) is responsible for your fairy rings, it is quite natural for the soil to look grey and to smell like mushrooms. The hyphae (fungus mycelia) trap air in the soil so that water runs off as off a duck's back. It seems that the best approach is (1) to puncture, spike, aerify or otherwise make a lot of holes in the soil; (2) apply a long-lasting insoluble nitrogen fertilizer to encourage bacterial activity; (3) water gently and frequently to thoroughly wet all parts of the soil. Soon the dry-looking areas will be green and vigorous. They should stay that way if the program is repeated when needed.

Programs of removing soil to a foot in depth and refilling with new soil are expensive and seldom successful. Some attempts have been made with fungicides but so far no firm recommendations have appeared. Wetting agents could be helpful in initial wetting of the fungus-filled soil.