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Grau's Answers

(Continued from page 56)

was no damage from lime or fertilizer. The brownness was simply exposed thatch after you took "Trouble From the Top." In removing surface thatch the green grass blades were removed. That left only brown stems. When I saw the affected greens a few days after the treatment the new fresh green growth was recovering 100 per cent. The greens have been greatly improved by the full treatment. The 90 degrees accentuated the "brown." Had the weather stayed cool the scalped thatch still would have been brown. You may expect your program to gradually reduce the thatch and promote improved water penetration. You need fear no reaction between the lime and the fertilizer.

Backyard Green

Q. I'm interested in building a small putting green in my back yard. Could you please send any information that you might have which would be helpful to me? Do you recommend planting seed or using sod? I want to get the green ready in a hurry. (Mass.)

A. There is no single piece of literature designed to answer the questions of the homeowner who wants a putting green in the backyard. To review the existing literature on the maintenance of greens would be a time-consuming task and one which we could not even attempt to con-

dense in these columns.

Building a green would be a simple matter. The maintenance of the putting green is something else. I would suggest that you consult with the nearest supt. and discuss the problem with him. He will be able to tell you the whys and the wherefores of the building and the maintenance. It is entirely possible that your backyard may be totally unsuited to a putting green. This could be determined only by an on-the-spot inspection by a qualified person.

To put a backyard green into play as quickly as possible, it would be best, after the bed is prepared, to lay putting green sod from a nursery. In this way you could be playing on the green in a week or two. If the green were to be seeded or stolonized, it would take 8 to 10 weeks before the green would be in play and then it would not be too satisfactory for another month or six weeks.

You must remember that a putting green on a golf course is mowed every day or two. They are watered frequently and treated with fungicides and insecticides whenever needed. Since it takes years to learn how to do this properly, maintenance should be put in the hands of a qualified supt. who can direct a workman to handle the necessary tasks.

It is a critical operation to keep a putting green mower in top operating condition. This, too, is not a task for an amateur.