



GRAU'S Answers to Turf Questions

By FRED V. GRAU

Golf course architects and golf superintendents have made good use of improved turfgrasses. Some new courses have been planted entirely with recently-released improved grasses, both vegetative and seeded.

Several states have kept pace with progress by developing regulations for CERTIFICATION or seeds, sod, sprigs and stolons of superior grasses. Inherent in the system is a tag or a certificate which accompanies each lot of grass assuring the purchaser of genetic integrity.

Regardless of any impulse to the contrary, **KEEP THAT TAG!** File it in a safe place until the turf is several years old. There have been instances of off-type grasses appearing in turf that was established from apparently pure material. The "off-types" may show up three years or more after planting. The name of the supplier may be remembered but all evidence as to source, purity and other needed information has been lost. Now there is no way to assess liability because there is no way in which to trace the source and guarantee, if any.

The Blue Tag of Certification means that the seed in the bag wearing the Blue Tag (if it is still sealed) is true to variety and, within prescribed tolerances, free from noxious weeds and impurities. It does not assure the buyer that it will contain zero quantities of **OBJECTIONABLE** things such as: rough-stalked bluegrass in Merion Kentucky bluegrass or *Poa annua* in imported grass seeds. To exclude these items it is necessary to buy on *specification* which calls for "zero tolerance" of items that are not wanted.

The important things to remember in purchasing grasses is 1) get Certified stock if it is obtainable and, 2) keep the tag or certificate for future reference. Also, make sure that the area to be planted is not contaminated with the undesirables.

Q. Could you, out of your experience, give me a range of rates for different sources of nitrogen in a seedbed for several widely-used turfgrasses? Please give it to me in terms of "maximum quantity of N that is **SAFE**?" (So. Carolina)

A. Rates to be given refer to *lbs. of N* to 1,000 sq. ft. For *solubles* (urea, sulfate of ammonia, ammonium nitrate, nitrate of soda) the maximum safe rate is 2 lbs. for cool-season grasses; approximately double that for warm-season grasses, sprigged.

For straight ureaforms (38% N) the maximum safe rate is 8 lbs. N for cool-season grasses; about double that for warm-season grasses, sprigged.

From all indications it would seem that natural organic N is intermediate.

A mixed fertilizer must be evaluated on the basis of soluble N content. If a mixed fertilizer carries 50% of its N as ureaform the caustic effects of the soluble N portion will be masked. It is good business to learn exactly how much of each kind of N is in your mixed fertilizers.

Rates should be lowered by about $\frac{1}{4}$ when the seedbed is a sand or a sandy loam. Clay loam soils have a higher buffering capacity and can take the highest rates.

The so-called "soluble N" portion of ureaforms does not perform in the same

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WHOLE SEASON CONTROL WITH ONE SPRAYING

One part of Solexto in 400 parts of water sprayed on two to four acres gives season-long control of beetle grubs, ants, crickets, chinchbugs, cut worms, rose chafers, chiggers, fleas, ticks, mosquitoes and many other pests.

GRUB-PROOFS FOR TEN YEARS

One application of Solexto, two gallons to the acre (1-to-200 solution), grub-proofs the turf for at least ten years. Thus moles are also kept out by eliminating their food source.

ECONOMICAL COVERAGE

Because such high dilutions are possible, extensive coverage is very economical. Labor can also be saved by using EWT Weed Killer* in the same solution for general spraying of the grounds.

* Widely used selective weed killer manufactured by Dolge.

Write to the C. B. Dolge Company, Westport, Connecticut for information about other insecticides; also inquire about weed killers, golf ball cleaners, mole and gopher killers.



For more information circle number 125 on card

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way as the N in true soluble materials. It is truly organic and behaves as an organic.

Q. Our golf course is steeply rolling and, consequently, there are several tees that have steep slopes. We mow them to keep them decent but we would like to plant something that needs no mowing. Someone suggested crownvetch but vounteered no further information. If this groundcover is good for tees how would it do around our lake? (Maryland)

A. Crownvetch would be a good choice for any steep slope that is too steep to mow or for any rough area or pond out of the line of play where low-maintenance is desired. The variety that I discovered in 1935 and which Mrs. Grau and I developed is Penngift, the one with which I am most familiar. The varieties Chemung and Emerald also are on the market but the only one in good supply and available easily is Penngift.

Crownvetch is widely adapted over most of the U. S. It can be seeded without preparing a seedbed. Crowns (roots) also may be planted but at higher cost. Once established, erosion is stopped. Incidentally, this groundcover is very colorful through a long summer blooming period.

There are educational leaflets available that provide instructions for planting. They may be requested from GOLFDOM or directly from GRASS-LYN, INC., Box 177, College Park, Maryland 20740.

Merger in Upstate N.Y.

Victory Manufacturing Company Inc. of Lancaster, N. Y., has acquired the manufacturing firm of Wilson Chemical Feeders Inc. of Buffalo, N. Y. According to Howard W. Nash, president of Victory, "New designs and improvements are contemplated. Manufacturing and engineering will continue on the Wilson Line of chemical feeding units, hypochlorinators, displacement feed pumps, vacua meters and purifiers."