



GRAU'S Answers to Turf Questions

By FRED V. GRAU

Q.—At our course we had so much construction involving “slopes-too-steep-to-mow” that we purchased a 500-gallon hydroseeder. It has been very useful. Now, as you have suggested, we want to spray hydrated lime on our greens (black scum) but with our regular power sprayer it takes too long. Could we use the hydroseeder to apply the hydrated lime? We cover 30,000 sq. ft. in about 15 minutes with one 500-gallon tankful in regular operation.

(Maryland)

A.—The hydroseeder should be ideal for this purpose. Your rate is equivalent to about 15 gallons of water to 1,000 sq. ft. One-half of a 50-pound bag of hydrated lime (25 lbs.) to each tankful will be about right. **CAUTION:** Do not use or introduce any inorganic nitrogen into the program within a week (either side) of the hydrated lime or your eyes will water from ammonia fumes. The grass won't like it either. If nitrogen is needed at this time the only safe nitrogen to use is powdered ureaform, not more than two pounds to 1,000 sq. ft. (one 50-pound bag to a 500-gallon tankful). There is no chemical reaction between hydrated lime and ureaform. (Note: There are three hydraulic seeders on the market. Finn Equipment Co., 2525 Duck Road, Cincinnati, Ohio; Bowie Machine Works, Box 630, Bowie, Texas; Reinco, Box 584, Plainfield, N. J. Each will send literature.

Q. What are the relative merits of thin-cut vs. thick-cut sod?

A. Thin-cut sod contains more roots at the contact horizon, knits more quickly, allows water to penetrate to the sod bed more easily, conserves space and

weight in handling, and leaves the topsoil in the production fields where it belongs. Thick-cut sod, the antithesis of everything above, brings with it a layer of soil which frequently is so different from the sod bed that it introduces difficulties which persist for many years. It is more difficult to do a smooth laying job with thick-cut sod.

Q. Please tell us the advantages of buying Blue Tag Certified seed (or sod). Some tell us that it is foolish to pay the higher price for certified stock. (Iowa)

A. When there is a choice between certified and uncertified seed or sod my advice is to choose the *certified* material every time. Sometimes there is no choice because the crop in question may not merit certification nor qualify for the high standards.

The Blue Tag of certification assures you that the material in the container meets (or exceeds) all standards for mechanical purity and, most important, genetic identity. The slightly higher cost for certified stock represents only part of the extra costs incurred by the grower and processor.

Through the tag on certified stock the user can trace back to the original grower in case there is any question concerning the planting material.

Uncertified stock carries no guarantee of genetic identity. Seeds of other varieties which are so similar as to escape visual detection legally can be sold under the popular variety name. *The loser is the user.* He has no recourse and can claim damages from no one.

It would seem that the slight extra cost of *certified* material is a small price to pay for satisfaction and protection. **KEEP ALL TAGS!** •