

GRAU

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phase of turfgrass development is, frankly, exciting.

Q.—We have been spraying our greens with fungicide for the control of Pythium. Recently we sprayed fertilizer, an iron compound (chelated), a disodium methyl arsonate preparation for post-emergence crabgrass control, a wetting agent and hydrated lime, all blended in the tank. The grass turned black and we wonder how long it will last and if it will hurt the grass.

(Maryland)

A.—My best judgment is that the black color is the result of interaction between the iron and the lime, augmented by the wetting agent which increases penetration and enhances effectiveness. I doubt that you will have any serious consequences but, in the future, my advice

is to use only one or two of these chemicals at a time so that, should anything happen, you can fix the blame. You have too many "unknowns" going for you—better simplify a bit.

Q.—We are working toward solid zoysia fairways. Poa annua is a "natural" during winter and early spring. When hot weather comes and the Poa starts to wilt we irrigate to "hold the Poa" and preserve appearances. Is it possible that we are hurting our zoysia? It doesn't seem to be spreading as it should.

(New Jersey)

A.—It is almost certain that irrigation to hold the *Poa* is harming your zoysia. It would be far better to prepare your members with a bulletin, then let the *Poa* wilt so that the zoysia can develop and spread without being "drowned." About this time the zoysia will

benefit from an application of a slow-release fertilizer. Zoysia will need water only when it starts to turn bluish-purple from wilt. In five minutes the leaves will be fresh and green.

Q.—You have been an advocate of using hydrated lime during the summer to help ailing turf, but usually you say, "Spray one-half pound to 1,000 square feet." Why don't you say, "Dust..."? When turf is soggy, why apply more water?

(Pennsylvania)

A.—Your point is well taken. I've been stymied by my inability to find a suitable duster, power or manual that can do the job. If you know of one, preferably one that utilizes tractor engine exhaust as an impelling force, please let us know. I will be only too glad to say "Dust" instead of "Spray" when there is excess moisture present. □

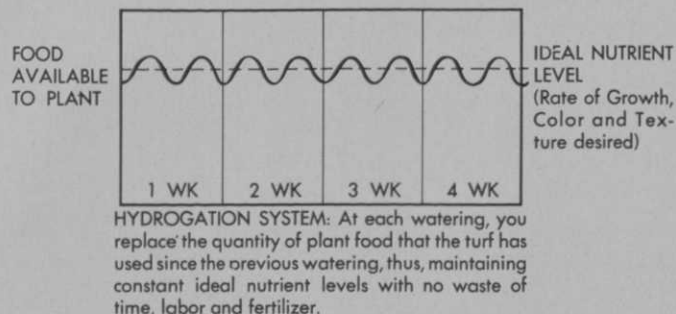
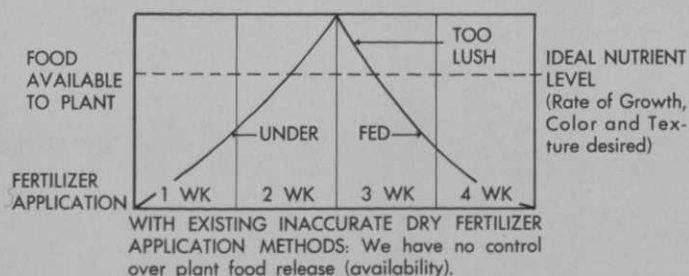
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