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**Grau**

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causing considerable concern. Will we have acceptable substitutes for controlling weeds, diseases and insects? Will they be available in time to avoid wholesale destruction of turf? Where do we look for relief? (Illinois)

**A**—First, keep in close touch with your county agent and your turfgrass specialist from the state university. It is their business to keep in close touch with such developments as these. They may not know all the answers, but they know where to get them. I am confident that our chemical industries will find acceptable, efficient, bio-degradable materials that will not add to environmental pollution.

**Q**—We have Seaside greens and we are not completely happy with them. Can we reseed them with Certified Penncross and expect good results? (Arizona)

**A**—Yes, I've recommended this procedure many times and shall continue to do so. Be sure that the green is thatched and well spiked so that the seed comes in contact with the soil. One-half pound of seed per thousand usually is considered sufficient.

#### For farms, not golf courses

**Q**—An official at our club engaged a private independent soil testing laboratory to sample and test the soils on our new course. We are quite unfamiliar with their figures and their terminology. They reported the quantity of nitrogen in the soil and used that to calculate the N needed to establish the turf. We think that their recommendations are too low. We enclose a copy of the test results. May we have your comments? (Virginia)

**A**—Nor am I familiar with their method of reporting. It seems that they are farm-oriented because their explanations revolve around manure, legumes-plowed-down and crop residue. I must agree that the nitrogen recommendations for establishment are too low. Ureaform was recommended but the quantity was too small to be significant.

My suggestion is to contact your state extension turf specialist who can assist in management problems during maintenance. Close correlation between establishment and maintenance is basic to success.

**Q**—Some heated discussions arise around here concerning artificial turf. You have been in this turf business a

long time. How do you feel about it compared to natural turf? (Ohio)

**A**—My experience has taught me many things. Among them are: 1) There are some areas devoted to intensive use where natural turf will never make the grade. These include practice and teaching tees where space is limited; athletic fields where practice and play must take place, including band practice; and play areas, such as covered domes, where light intensity is too low to support growth. 2) Many intensive use areas are built so that natural turf has two strikes against it from the start. 3) With few exceptions, important turfgrass areas are not intelligently managed.

Serious sober consideration of these factors (and others) can lead only to the conclusion that artificial turf will be used in those intensive use areas where natural turf fails for one reason or another. In discussing this subject with Dr. Joseph Duich, he asked, "Have you ever calculated what it costs to dry-clean football uniforms when all they have to practice and play on is mud?" Apparently the money spent for dry cleaning would make a handsome down payment on artificial turf.

Make no mistake, I am utterly devoted to natural grass turf, but I know when to be realistic. Also, some of the artificial turf I've examined is for the birds. The manufacturers still have some homework to do.

**Q**—We have a putting green that is close to the pro shop. Naturally it gets more than its share of traffic. When it was built it got the short end of soil amendments and, of course, it gets very hard. Drainage is all to the center and front. In addition it is surrounded on three sides by large trees (mostly oak). What management aides can you suggest? (Maryland)

**A**—Fortunately I know better than to suggest tree removal and rebuilding (the obvious) because that program would not be tolerated. 1) Hand water only, never use set sprinklers. 2) Keep soil open by punching or aerating as often as needed. Work in sand and calcined clay. 3) Cut tree roots with trencher or root cutter. 4) Fertilize lightly with gentle slow-release materials. 5) Overseed as needed with Penncross bent. 6) Use hydrated lime at one-half pound to 1,000 square feet as needed to reduce alfae. 7) Keep potash up to stiffen grass and to minimize disease and 8) Skip a mowing now and then. □

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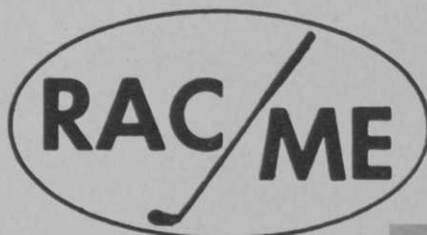
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