

Watering Economy Has Field's Attention

By W. A. BUCKNER
(Buckner Mfg. Co.)

It is our belief that the most outstanding development in the business end of golf during the past year is the widespread interest shown in the hoseless system of irrigation. A great many clubs throughout the United States have adopted this method of irrigation by the use of self-closing, underground valves installed in the fairways flush with the soil on which the sprinklers are snapped. An installation of this type reduces the irrigation costs of any golf course approximately 50% as compared with the old method.

We do not believe there is another item of initial expense in connection with golf course up-keep that will pay one-half the dividend on the investment as will be earned by a hoseless system.

Practically all the outstanding clubs in California have already adopted this method. This is, of course, due to the fact that it is of California origin, but eastern clubs are fast falling in line.

Some Questions and Answers from Leach's Mail

By B. R. LEACH

Question

Sir:

Four years ago we seeded our greens with what purported to be fescue and South German Creeping Bent. The bent failed to materialize to any appreciable extent. The fescue has not done very well and, four years having elapsed, it has practically disappeared.

Native to this locality is a very hardy velvet or crab grass which we are unable to identify. We have commonly termed it crab grass, but several so-called experts classify it as velvet.

It is a very tough, coarse growth and spreads quite rapidly. We have spent lots of money cutting it, that is, with a very fine sharp disc, cutting it both ways in an



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effort to slow it up, but this does not check it in the least. We have used literally tons of ammonia sulphate and it seems to thrive the same as the balance of the green. We have tried cutting it out in blocks and patching, but that is such a tremendous task and so expensive that we had decided to plow up the entire greens and reseed. I then read your article and proceeded to the course this morning and treated a large section of one of our greens with arsenate of lead as suggested by you. We applied the lead in solution and put it on very thick. Time alone can tell what result we will experience. In what manner would you suggest applying the arsenate, by hand, in top-dressing, or in solution? Would you suggest a heavier application than 5 lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft. in the winter when the grass and soil are wet? In other words will an extra heavy application hurt anything.

We have a native bent here that is positively the most perfect grass for greens that I have ever seen and I have seen lots in all parts of the country. This grass is now grown and harvested by a local concern and we have already a very large practice putting green and two large extensions seeded in this grass and they are perfect. The grass being native here is taking possession of all of our greens with the exception of this terrible crab or velvet of which I write. If we can eliminate this with some chemical we would save hundreds of dollars and have perfect greens.

Can you help us? I can send to you a sample of the grass if you will tell me where to send it.

C. W. H.

(Oregon.)

Answer

Sir:

We would suggest that you send a sample of this grass to The Division of Agrostology, Bureau of Plant Industry, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

If this grass is a true bent grass the arsenate of lead will stimulate its growth rather than check or kill it.

I do not advise the application of arsenate of lead mixed with water to turf. Rather apply it mixed with moist sand or soil or better still with dry milorganite. Five pounds of arsenate of lead will knock this grass if it is amenable to arsenate of lead treatment, but if it is a bent grass 25 pounds won't hurt it in the slightest.

B. R. L.

Question

Sir:

Replying to your inquiry in October GOLFDOM, we have used arsenate of lead in accordance with instructions given by you in earlier issues of the above magazine on Bermuda greens with very satisfactory results.

The Bermuda was very late this year in coming up but we had a late spring and they were well covered by Italian rye and we do not know whether the application of arsenate of lead had anything to do with their lateness.

Our fairways are infested with the June beetle grubs and we would appreciate your advice as to the use of arsenate of lead on the fairway. Can it be safely applied without mixing with top-dressing as we have done on the greens?

W. G. J.
(North Carolina).

Answer

Sir:

I note that you have had satisfactory results using arsenate of lead on Bermuda greens. When grass seed and stolons in general are planted in soil recently treated with arsenate of lead the chemical has a tendency to delay germination to a certain extent and also to slow up the growth of the newly sprouted grass for a few weeks, but after this initial period of retardation the grass picks up with a bang and rapidly outstrips grass growing in non-arsenated soil. No doubt this was the general condition which you experienced.

As regards the treatment of fairways for the control of June beetle would refer you to one of my articles in GOLFDOM in which this operation was discussed in detail. For directions for the application of this chemical without the use of top-dressing previous issues of GOLFDOM.

B. R. L.

Question

Sir:

We are troubled with a weed commonly called brass-button due to the small bright brass colored flowers which it bears. It was received in seaside bent seed, is a perennial and spreads rapidly. It has the characteristic of throwing up a growth from almost any small amount of root left in the ground.

Have been able to kill it with arsenate of soda but the leeway between killing the weed and not killing the bent is so small

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that I have hesitated to use the soda on a large scale. Am trying arsenate of lead on one green but haven't had time to tell as to its effect.

Have you had any experience with this weed? It is going to prove a bad one here on the coast. Can you give me the name or names of a couple of good books dealing with weeds, especially in reference to golf course work?

R. E. M.
(California).

Answer

Sir:

Would advise that I have had no experience with the "brass-button weed" as such. Would suggest that you send a sample of this weed to the California Experiment Station asking them to give you the technical or scientific name of the weed in question. We would then be in a better position to give you more specific assistance for controlling it.

As a general rule, however, we have found that weeds of a matted type of growth, commonly found in fine turf, such as chickweed, fennel, etc., are readily controlled by the persistent use of arsenate of lead in the top-dressing. I therefore suggest that you continue the applications

of the chemical to the green in question. As soon as you come to a definite conclusion, one way or the other, regarding the effect of the arsenate on this weed, let me know and the results will be published in GOLFDOM.

So far as I know the best book on the weeds of the United States was written by Ada Georgia of Cornell University and published by the MacMillan Co. Would also advise that the principal weeds of fine turf in this country have been illustrated and discussed in the various numbers of the Bulletin of the Greens Section during the past several years.

B. R. L.

Question

Sir:

In October GOLFDOM, on page 12 I noticed that you state you have not had any information on the effect of arsenate of lead on Bermuda grass.

Bermuda grass is unquestionably the best grass for golf courses in the south. We have tried several different kinds, but invariably go back to Bermuda. There are two grades of Bermuda grass, one coarse and one fine. The best way is to get the Bermuda grass seed to insure getting the fine quality. Sometimes in winter a little

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Italian rye is sprinkled over the putting greens, which adds a softness to it. Putting greens with Bermuda grass, to insure a soft green grass, should be covered with sand, or top-soil, occasionally, just leaving a little of the grass showing and in a very short while the new growth comes through. Otherwise, you have more or less of a stiff, stubby green.

We have not had any experience in using arsenate of lead. We do have a little trouble with cricket moles and are using a preparation made by the Paramount Chemical Company, Columbus, Georgia, which seems to be very effective. I would like to inquire a little about arsenate of lead. Do you know of anyone who has had the experience in using it on St. Augustine grass? This, of course, is much coarser than Bermuda and will grow in the shade right up to the tree trunk, which is quite an advantage. But, there is something that attacks the root, I think they are called cinch bugs. The grass begins to turn brown in spots and unless it is checked will spread over a wide area. I have read of your experience with arsenate of lead for other purposes and I am of the opinion that it might remedy our trouble with the other grass. If you know of anyone who has had the experience kindly let me hear from you.

T. J. P.
(Florida.)

Answer
Sir:

We have as yet, had no reports of the use of arsenate of lead on St. Augustine grass. As regards the control of cinch

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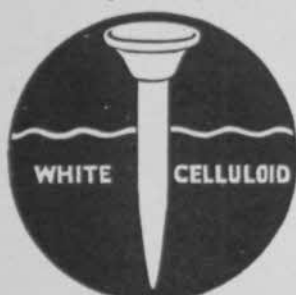
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bugs attacking the roots of this grass would suggest that you collect a few samples of this insect and send them to the Florida state entomologist for a scientific determination. We would then be in a position to give you a more intelligent answer as to whether arsenate of lead would prove satisfactory as a control agent for this insect.

The local names of weeds and insects vary so much in the various sections of the country that it is very difficult at times to know what the insect or weed concerned really is. The scientific name of a weed or insect, on the other hand, is always the same, consequently if we have this we can readily find out what is known about it in the general reference books and advise you accordingly. You can always obtain the scientific name of a bug or weed by sending it to your State Experiment Station.

B. R. L.

Golf Taxation Plan Fits City Growth

By A. P. GREENSFELDER

Chairman, Committee on Parks and Playgrounds,
St. Louis County, Mo.

IN October GOLFDOM there appeared an article, "How Long Is Cry for Tax Justice to Be in Vain?", which interested me very much indeed, and I am taking this occasion to present to you our problem which might help to solve the above tax question.

Several of us who are members of a country club moving farther westward and who are also deeply interested in regional and city planning are concerned with the problem of the future of a large number of privately owned golf courses now in existence in this district.

It seems quite plain to us that it is in the interest of the general community that these club-grounds now privately owned should become publicly owned in time. In other words, it looks foolish to us that these private golf courses should be sold for land subdivisions, built up with expensive buildings and then have the com-

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munity come along 10 or 20 years later and condemn a block or more in order to make public playgrounds. It is our thought, therefore, that whenever these private groups desire to relinquish these lands as golf courses and move outwardly as occasion and habit indicates, the community ought to step in and take possession under some equitable arrangement.

One plan which suggests itself to us is that the golf club might be released of all real estate taxes on the basis that it will sell to the community at its original purchase price or at an approved value at the time the plan becomes effective, whenever they desire to close up the golf links and move elsewhere. In the meantime, the community would obtain the equivalent taxes thus omitted through the increased value of the surrounding land, which always follows the location of a golf course.

On the basis that taxes would average 1% of the actual value, this capitalization again in 33 years would pay for the original cost of the land, which is the basis of amortization of land loans under the Federal Land Bank system.

The community is not taxed for schools, roads or many public facilities, which would otherwise occupy the area of the golf course area so that it really is not furnishing as much service to the golf course area as it does to the surrounding area, thus again not losing a great deal by the non-remittance of taxes.

Greenkeepers Show Space Going Fast

CLEVELAND, O.—Chairman Fred Burkhardt of the show committee of the National Association of Greenkeepers, which is to hold its annual convention and exhibition at Hotel Statler, Buffalo, Feb. 13-16, states that the week following mailing of contracts to prospective exhibitors saw more than 50% of the available space bought.

Allotments made up to October 23 were: Spaces: No. 1, Toro Mfg. Co.; No. 2, Ideal

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In addition to Chairman Burkhardt the show committee consists of Louis M. Evans, John MacGregor, John Morley, Emil Loeffler, David L. Rees and Al Schardt.

Officials of the organization are satisfied that all space will be sold quickly. Arrangements are being perfected for a program that will arouse a lively buying interest and give the exhibitors a splendid run for their money.

The program committee is at work on a line-up that will present as speakers prominent authorities in greenkeeping and covering a wide range of the important and practical subjects of value in the maintenance and construction of golf-courses.

YEAR'S ADVANCE SURVEYED

(Continued from Page 8)

and draw big crowds if the menus and arrangements are enticing.

Back of the house the managers have shown development during the past year along lines that are strictly country-club rather than groping adaptations of hotel and restaurant practice.

The manager's responsibility is being broadened for, if he stands in the way he should with a first class club, he is being entrusted with details of the house business development campaign. This is but the beginning, for if he makes good in this respect he finds himself a candidate for the general management of the club, a title and a duty that has been getting a great play during the past couple of years. On paper the general management looks fine and one of the outstanding needs of the manager's group is the development of men to fill this sort of a job. One of the troubles of the plan in actual practice is that the element of diplomacy is neglected in the relations with the outside execu-

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tives, the professional and the greenkeeper. The general manager has to be pretty much of a genius and a real diplomat if he is an inside man and can handle his job without incurring the veiled, if not active, enmity of the outside men, who may consider that he is "bossing" them without knowing about their province. Unfortunately this peril is not as infrequent as it should be and the general manager, as a result, finds himself in wrong all around. It has been our observation that the general manager plan has bumped into the rocks more on this account than for any other reason.

A good part of the manager's trouble has been concerned with the matter of housing the employees. It is interesting to note that the plans of the new clubs built during the past season in metropolitan areas have provided for help quarters.

In the small towns the manager has an entirely different set-up. His wife may have active charge of the back-of-the-house operations. She may even take a hand in the book-keeping to bear out the old saying that "women's work is never done." The nominal manager has the job of making the clubhouse show a real profit, one that will not only pay the operating charges, but the carrying charges and amortize the investment. The building of better clubhouses that are suitable for social centers of the highest type for the community seems to be the significant feature of smaller town operations this year.

This matter of utilization of clubhouses to a greater extent is giving the managers in the city territories food for thought. Many of them apparently think that the ideal to be attained is a clubhouse that will attract year-round use. We may see the new clubhouse as one with a practice putting green and swimming pool under glass, handball courts, practice nets and other winter sport facilities. If the location of the clubhouse and the character of the membership is such that a year-round club might be operated at a profit, this type of a clubhouse may come sooner than we now imagine.

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