

"I Don't Dope My Greens"

By FRANK W. CURRIER
Greenkeeper, St. Thomas Golf & Country Club
Union, Ontario, Canada

I READ in a golf magazine the other day from a greenkeeper that chemicals had become a necessary commodity to greenkeepers, but I beg very much to differ, and what is more I am very sorry to see such a ridiculous statement in print. Chemicals being used are the cause of all the trouble. Common sense should teach us that we cannot put chemical cures into the soil and maintain the natural substance. I never use any and I never see such a thing as brown-patch and winter kill as they call it. It is not "winter kill," it is summer kill.

As long as they use chemicals and dopes they will have their troubles. They are killing the greens in the summer and trying to cure them in the spring.

I also read another article of a greenkeeper watering his greens from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. in the morning—well if I did that kind of thing I would never expect to have any greens at all. My best friend and the only thing I use is good screened compost and it carries me along smoothly all the time and I place our greens second to none. A little advice I want to give to greenkeepers is just try it out.

In the spring when you think you have winter kill on your greens, don't worry, and don't use any dopes, just rake the dead spots lightly, put on a little screened compost and sprinkle it lightly, but use no dopes. I never use them, and I never have any winter kill.

I enclose a few pictures of our greens with explanation of the care they get. Number 3 green is natural grass, Number 11 is Colonial bent and Number 13 is Washington bent, and undoubtedly the best bent both in color, growth and standing the weather.

Number 3 green is natural grass, four years old, which is renovated with the usual amount of seed each spring—five to ten pounds to eleven thousand feet and top dressed with screened compost and sand three times a year, rolled once a week and watered for two hours each day covering the green fifteen minutes each move.

Number 11 green, Colonial bent, is two years old. The same treatment is given, minus the seed and not cut quite so close as the natural grass. Bent greens won't stand the close cutting without showing the runners which will look brown and spoils the looks of the green.

Number 13 green is the Washington bent from my own nursery—this green I planted this spring the first week in May, and I opened it for play on the Fourth of July, and the same treatment is used on this, rolled once a week, when watering move sprinklers every fifteen minutes until covered and when the winter comes it will just get the usual top-dressing of screened compost, without sand and not rubbed in. I have no fear of the so called winter kill. I hope the boys will try my method and keep off the dopes.



Upper, number 3 green, lower left number 13, and lower right, number 11, at St. Thomas Golf and Country Club, Union, Ontario, Canada