

How I Control Brown Patch

Second of series of prize winning stories by expert greenkeepers. These are considered the most comprehensive articles on the subject ever published

JOHN PRESSLER

Allegheny Country Club, Sewickley, Penna.

BROWN-PATCH is caused by using too much fertilizer, too much topdressing, too much watering and if you won't correct this or rather these three things you will have brown-patch.

July and August are two bad months to topdress. I have grass tennis courts that have not been topdressed for twenty-five years and are just as good as any of my greens.

What is the use of using chemicals when you get brown-patch just the same. Chemicals will not stop brown-patch if you don't correct the first three reasons.

Visit some poor nine-hole golf course where they have no money to waste on topdressing, fertilizer, and watering and you will see that you never find brown-patch.

Here is something to think about.

Now how to keep your greens in first-class condition.

For twenty-five years I used 100 pounds bone meal to each green in March, that was all the fertilizer all year, no topdressing, and the only fault I found with this system was too much crabgrass.

In 1926 I started to use 6 pounds sulphate of ammonia to each green from the first of March to the last of October per week, no bone meal or topdressing with this system. My crabgrass, chick weed all disappeared.

My greens are in first-class condition, never take grass clippings of greens—that is why I don't topdress. Always topdress a new green the first year.

E. A. SWANLUND

Rochester Country Club, Rochester, Minn.

IN VIEW of the fact that there are posters and a reward out for Mr. Brown-Patch, we'll all have to go after him most energetically, using all the vim and vigor that is in us.

For the past three years I have worked on one method in combating this enemy and have succeeded to such an extent that he has not visited my premises, for which I am not the least indignant. This might have been luck but, nevertheless, my intentions are the same this season to ward off the hated pest, Mr. Brown-Patch, and I would like to see someone else try this.

From the first of April each year I topdress every three or four weeks with compost and sulphate ammonia. My first topdressing in the spring is rather heavy, using from one and one-half to three yards per green of compost and twenty to forty pounds of sulphate ammonia. After this I cut this amount in half and do likewise with all following topdressings. The above mixture is rubbed into the roots of the grass, after which the grass is

watered. There is no danger of burning if mixed and well-washed.

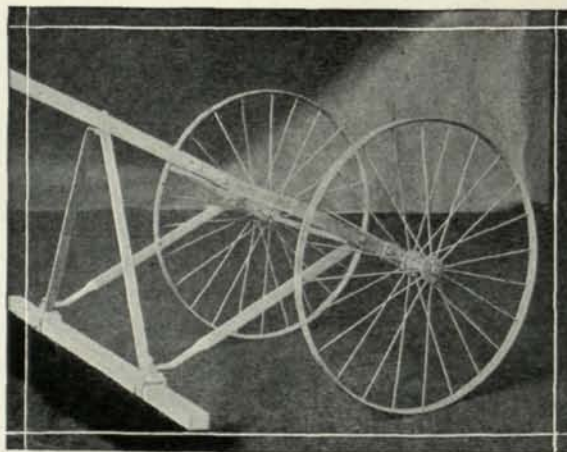
Our brown-patch season being from the middle of June until the first of September, I use sulphate of ammonia in liquid solution between each topdressing. For spraying, Charles Erickson's sprayer is used. This sprayer is very easily manipulated and a good job is the result. Spraying is done in the evening after the sun is down and two men can easily do nine greens in a few hours. As a result of this, the greens are in perfect condition and this gives them food on which to live and from which to resist all abuse and disease. I do not believe in using chemicals. The less used, the better, is my policy. Treat the greens as you would treat yourself, with plenty of good wholesome food and water.

CHAS. KESSELRING

Washington Country Club, Marietta, O.

IN FACT it won't take a long story to give my experience with brown-patch. I have been assistant greenkeeper at the club I am now at for three years, and

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Yours truly, (Signed) John Morley, Greenkeeper,
Youngstown Country Club, Youngstown, Ohio

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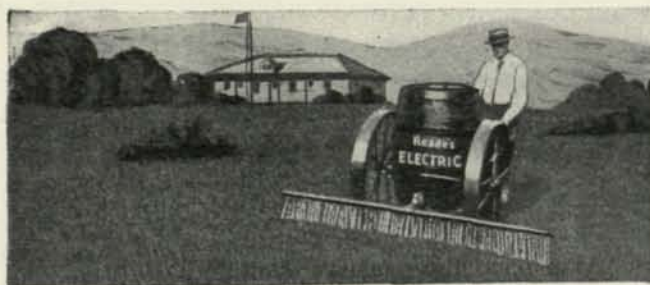
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Say you saw the ad in The National Greenkeeper

our "pro" was greenkeeper, so therefore the greenkeeping work fell to me.

The second year we had what is called the large brown-patch, but not to any great extent. Five of my greens which are of the Washington bent were affected, but two applications of Pryex was all the treatment required to stop it, and then last year on four of our greens we had the dollar patch, and this I treated with Calogreen, and two applications was all we needed for that.

Since that time I have had no more trouble with either kind, therefore, I am not prepared to give much light on that subject. But I am making a thorough study of what my brother greenkeepers are writing on this subject, as I presume that at some future time possibly some near future I may be greenkeeper at some club that is not so fortunate as the club I am now with along that line.

LAWRENCE HUBER

Elks Country Club, Worthington, Ohio

I DON'T know in your question, (How I control brown-patch) whether you mean entirely or part of it. I have read where several greenkeepers claim not to have any trouble by using the different mercury compounds, but I have tried several of them and still have brown-patch in the large form.

My best method of control either in the large or small brown-patch is to topdress the greens affected as soon as you find any trace of the disease, with compost and fifteen to twenty pounds of sulphate of ammonia added to the top dressing and water as well. In a few days all traces disappear.

In severe cases where I have spots that are slow in recovering I go to the nursery and get plugs and cut out these spots and plug new sod in. I have different size hole cutters for this work.

One of the things that also helps to control brown-patch is early morning watering. I noticed this especially on greens that were watered by our night man in the morning hours. However, it is hard to have them all watered at the same time. Last season I used Calomel regularly in each topdressing once a month and I noticed we had less brown-patch than ever before, although we had some, but it was less severe.

I think this a very interesting question and I hope to read other greenkeepers' answers in the NATIONAL GREENKEEPER.

WM. McMILLAN

Harrison Hills Country Club, Attica, Ind.

MINE is a nine-hole course and my greens were infected with small brown-patch last year. I was unfortunate in not having on hand some of the recognized disinfectants for the control of this disease, but the following method I'm sure proved beneficial.

The dark ring around the patches showed the fungus very active. I first cut my greens close and catching the clippings and all the infected blades of grass I could. I then applied ammonia sulphate in its own powdered form not in topdressing at the rate of three pounds to one thousand feet and watered in and I was really convinced this checked the disease to a large extent. In the