

Official Organ of The National Association of Greenkeepers of America

## How I Control Brown Patch

Contest conducted by the *NATIONAL GREENKEEPER* produces splendid list of prize stories. A. E. Lundstrom wins the \$50.00 cash prize by close margin on points. Judges' opinions vary greatly.

*It was a great contest. Just to show that brown-patch control is still an unknown quantity there was only one paper, that of the winner, Mr. Lundstrom, which any two judges rated the same. It may be that this disagreement is due to the wide territorial locations of the judges, Evans in Philadelphia, McNamara in Pittsburgh, and MacGregor in Chicago. When John Morley appointed these judges he probably had in mind getting as comprehensive a viewpoint as possible which shows what a wise head he is.*

*It might be explained that the judges did not know the names of the contestants. The papers were lettered and the judges rated them from 1 to 10 according to their judgment.*

### FIRST PRIZE

A. E. LUNDSTROM

Crescent Athletic Club, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Brown-patch, being a fungus, requires shade and moisture. Reason therefore prompts me to try to eliminate these factors as soon as possible, i.e., destroying the main factor favoring fungus growth.

One seldom sees brown-patch on newly planted lawns or very thin grass, or grass that is allowed to grow undisturbed to maturity, for the simple reason that sun and air penetrates to its roots.



THE WINNER

Where brown-patch most frequently occurs is in turf closely cut,

*Space will not permit us to publish only the five prize winners in this number. Next month we hope to publish the honorable mention stories and it is the Editor's opinion (if it is worth much), that some of those who are not even on the list are worth publishing in THE NATIONAL GREENKEEPER. But no matter how opinions may vary we are going to get somewhere on brown-patch control, and as everybody knows THE NATIONAL GREENKEEPER, with the co-operation of the National Association of Greenkeepers of America, is setting the pace in a progressive study of this serious subject. We will be glad to have opinions of our readers as to the results of this contest—EDITOR'S NOTE.*

heavily topdressed and fed and where a thick root system is artificially created.

One naturally applies drastic remedies at once. This, however, I feel is not enough, for, by only applying said remedy the cause making brown-patch growth possible is still there. Why not, therefore, eliminate this cause at once with a severe raking, followed by close cutting and avoiding water for several days thus allowing the sun and air to do the principal work.

This naturally creates a brown stubble and is unsightly though only for a short time, for by intensified feeding, watering and topdressing the grass will come back better than ever, due greatly to its well established root system.

The road to least resistance is not always practical and the greenkeeper, like the doctor, must find and kill the cause before a permanent cure is assured and that, with the greenkeeper means elbow grease, and not only chemicals or certain remedies which, however, plays a prominent part.

**SECOND PRIZE****ELMER F. AFFELDT**

Glen Oaks Golf & Country Club, Great Neck, Long Island

**A**BOUT June 15 in this locality the hot muggy nights arrive and with it weather favorable for the rapid development of brown-patch.

This is the time to begin operations for the control of this dread disease rather than wait for its appearance.

I start a man with Knap-Sack sprayer and spray all greens lightly but thoroughly. This covers the foliage of the plants as well as leaving a light film of the preventive material on the surface of the soil.

This treatment should be given every other day, also after a rain. While the disease is raging a daily treatment is necessary.

The reason for the frequent treatments is that foliage is being cut off daily, and the new growth is not immune because of not having been treated.

I use Uspulun Nu-Green because of its convenience and ease of application, using two pounds to fifty gallons of water. Weigh this material out two pounds to a paper bag; the man doing the spraying need only empty the material in the barrel, fill it with water and proceed, as the material is very soluble; it also has a mild stimulative action aiding the green to recover more quickly.

I have been using this method for the past three seasons and have never lost any turf, or had any trouble from burning.

This method has also been equally effective in controlling the small or dollar patch as it has the large patch.

**THIRD PRIZE****JACOB BALDAUF**

Bloomington Country Club, Bloomington, Ill.

**I**HAVE taken care of bent greens for the past three years. The first year I had some brown-patch, not very bad, but since then have had very little trouble.

My method of preventing brown-patch—I give them a treatment by June 1 with Uspulun. Then I watch closely every time we have warm cloudy sultry days and I give them a treatment.

Everyone that has any experience with bent greens should know that a day or two of sultry warm cloudy weather will bring brown-patch. Last season a great many of the clubs in this section were very much bothered with brown-patch. Some lost many of their greens entirely.

*The Winners***PRIZE CONTEST****How I Control Brown-Patch**

FIRST, A. E. Lundstrom—20 points.

Crescent Athletic Club, Brooklyn, N. Y.

SECOND, Elmer F. Affeldt—18 points.

Glen Oaks Golf & Country Club, Great Neck, L. I.

THIRD, Jacob Baldauf—17 points.

Bloomington Country Club, Bloomington, Ill.

FOURTH, Alex McWhinnie—16 points.

Morrison Country Club, Morrison, Ill.

FIFTH, Frank Ermer—13 points.

Ridgewood Golf Club, Cleveland, Ohio.

**HONORABLE MENTION**

Chas. Kesselring, Washington Country Club, Marietta, O.

E. A. Swanlund, Rochester Country Club, Rochester, Minn.

Wm. McMillan, Harrison Hills Country Club, Attica, Ind.

John Pressler, Allegheny Country Club, Sewickley, Pa.

James A. Smith, London Country Club, London, O.

Lawrence Huber, Elks Country Club, Worthington, O.

**JUDGES**

John McNamara, First Vice President N. A. G. A.

John MacGregor, Second Vice President N. A. G. A.

Lewis M. Evans, Treasurer N. A. G. A.

In the past two years in my way of treating them have never had one brown-patch visible to any member of our club. Will not say that I myself did not notice any brown-patch because I was looking for it. Will not say my way of treating the greens will hold good on all greens where the climate is different than it is here, but I do know that it worked with me.

I treat the greens four or five times in the season, about five pounds of Uspulun to eight thousand square feet of green.

Now if anyone knows a better way to treat brown-patch I would be glad to know.

**FOURTH PRIZE****ALEX McWHINNIE**

Morrison Country Club, Morrison, Ill.

**T**HIS pest, "brown-patch," will surely visit you, if you give it the right invitation. During the hot stuffy weather of the latter part of July and the month of August, 1925, I was giving my greens a heavy watering every morning and found that brown-patch needed no other encouragement. It came and settled down with damaging results.

Where the surface drainage was best there was no damage whatever. In other words, the greens that dried off quickest after watering were free from it. I also found that where the slopes were most pronounced, the grass was healthiest, while one green which was located

in a ravine, and damp all the time, was almost completely wiped out.

During 1926-27 I decided to profit by the mistake I made in 1925, and so far I have not been troubled with brown-patch, large or small, I water in proportion to the humidity.

If the dew is light, I water it off. If it is heavy, I rub it off, keeping in mind the fact that the greens should dry off quickly. Many times the heavy dew rubbed off has been sufficient watering for that day. The idea that creeping bent greens require a lot of water has caused more brown-patch than anything else, is my belief.

Very light morning watering during humid weather will be my method of controlling "brown-patch" until I learn of something better.

#### FIFTH PRIZE FRANK ERMER

Ridgewood Golf Club, Cleveland, O.

**I**N THE summer of 1926 my greens were very much infested with brown-patch and as this disease was somewhat new to our district at the time, I tried several methods with very little result until I tried using corrosive sublimate, which I have used during the seasons of 1926-7 and am also going to use it in 1928.

Along about the last of May, or when the weather looks humid, I put one and one-half ounces of corrosive sublimate mixed with three pounds of sulphate of ammonia, using a barrel cart to put it on and use three barrels to a green of about six thousand square feet.

The reason I use three barrels of this mixture to a green is so as to be sure and flood the green so as to catch every square inch of it. Whereas using only one barrelfull of this solution mixed three times as strong to a green you can not flood the green as the holes in the boom of the barrel cart are drilled too far apart and will not catch all the surface, but will leave lines on the green where no corrosive will be applied and also gives the fungus a starting point.

I use this mixture once a week until the first of July. I then cut down to three-quarter ounce of corrosive and one and one-half sulphate to each barrel until the 15th of September. Or if there is an exceptionally late fall, with hot humid nights I proceed with the latter formula until the 1st of October.

The reason I cut down on the corrosive and sulphate is if you use a greater amount than the above each week it probably will turn the turf slightly brown and also if applied at intervals

of more than one week I think the solution gets weakened or disappears with the cutting and watering of the turf.

I do not use fresh compost for top dressing, it should be at least two years old. The spring top dressing I put all I can work into the grass with a mixture of two parts compost and one part sand. Then one or two light top dressings during the summer, consisting about two parts sand and one part compost. The fall top dressing, about the middle of September, is the same as in the spring.

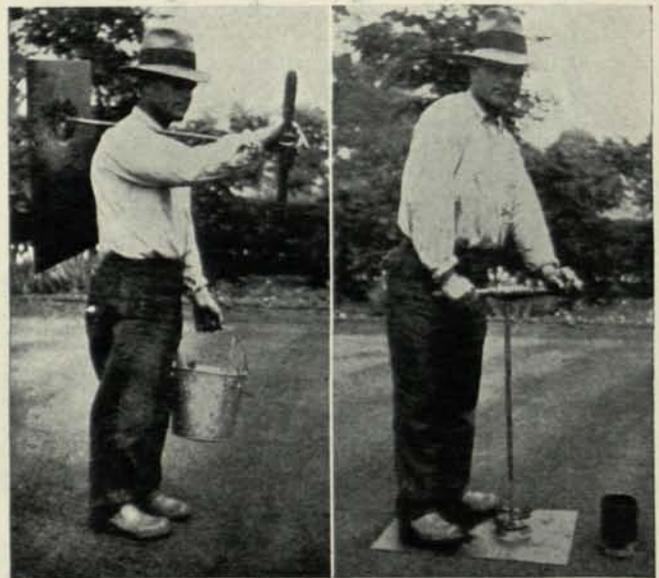
By using this method since the spring of 1926 I have not had one spot of brown-patch in two seasons. I do all my watering at night.

### Changing the Holes

By JOHN McNAMARA

**W**HILE at the greenkeeper's meeting at Pine Valley I heard some of the greenkeepers talking about the men changing the holes. It was a surprise to some of them to see the man carrying this sheet of iron around him, so I had a picture taken when I came home which I am enclosing for the July number of THE NATIONAL GREENKEEPER as some of its readers may be interested in it.

The sheet of iron measures 16 x 24 x  $\frac{1}{8}$  inches, having a hole cut about 6 inches from the one end which gives



**SHEET IRON PLATE USED IN CHANGING HOLES**

the man cutting the hole room to stand on the other end and leaves the grass edge perfect when he places the cup and removes the plate which is only 12 pounds. This will never kill the man that carries it around as the man in this picture has been carrying it around for me for twenty odd years.