

Brands Fungi As Golfers' Foe

BY WALLACE S. MORELAND
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THREE species of fungi or minute plant parasites stand convicted of boosting the scores of many a New Jersey golfer.

Guilt of the fungi, which are so small a golfer would need a microscope to see them, was established by agronomists of the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, who for more than a year have been attempting to find the cause of and a cure for a new type of injury to putting greens. This disorder was first noticed during a period of unusually hot humid weather in July 1928, which extended from June through August.

During that period the scores of many New Jersey golfers showed a marked upward trend because of the poor condition of the putting greens, the annual bluegrasses of which were killed overnight in many instances. The disorder became so widespread that help was asked of the state agricultural experiment station

by the New Jersey Greenkeepers' Association and the New Jersey State Golf Association. The golf association provided financial support for the studies, which were started in September, 1928, at the experiment station.

Dr. H. B. Sprague and E. E. Evaul, agronomists, found that three species of fungi—known to scientists as *Colletotrichum cereale*, *Helminthosporium vagans*, and *Fusarium* sp.—killed bluegrass on the greens but had no harmful effect on bent grass.

The investigations of the two agronomists further revealed that serious injury from these fungi would occur only during periods of "abnormally warm, humid weather."

It was found that the degree of injury to the putting greens was correlated with the abundance of annual bluegrass growing on the green. The predominance of bluegrass on the many injured greens, according to the report

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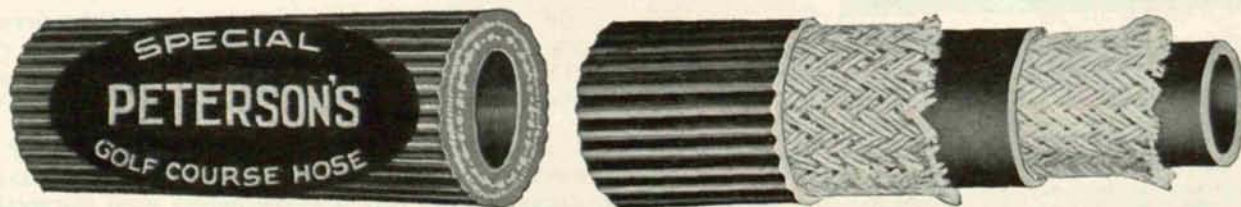
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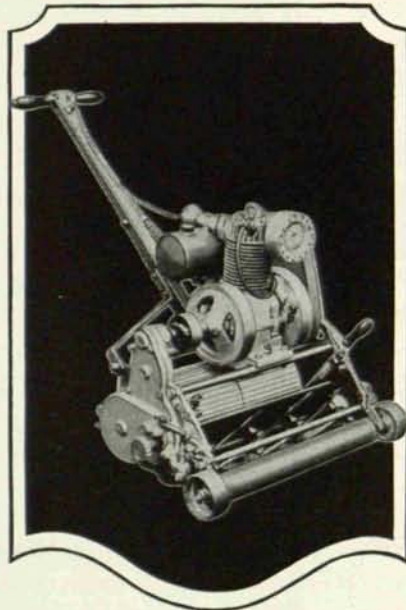
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announced today, was due to heavy subsoil and poor subsurface drainage, which favored the growth of bluegrass at the expense of bent grasses originally present.

"Future outbreaks of the disorder may be expected whenever abnormally warm humid weather is experienced," the report states.

"Control measures have not yet been perfected, so preventive measures must be followed until adequate methods of control are found. To prevent outbreaks of this disorder, do not allow bluegrass to predominate on the greens. Remove all clippings during warm, humid weather, and adopt cultural methods that will make for a rather slow but tough hard growth of grass."

West Penn. News

The Pittsburgh Field Club is in wonderful shape for the U. S. G. A. Qualifying rounds. The greens, tees and fairways are like carpets and the rest of the course has that well groomed appearance common to only the best courses of the country. Jack McNamara is sure following in the footsteps of his father in keeping the Field Club course in faultless condition.

Needless to say, but Oakmont is still in the pink of condition. Emil Loeffler is busy as the proverbial bee since he has taken over the Pro job along with his regular duties as greenkeeper. The Inter-collegiate Championship will be played at Oakmont this year.

Bob Smith of Westmoreland and Dave Bell of St. Clair are still trying to see who can raise the best bent greens. So far it has been a draw and both have shown what can be done with bent when you know how.

John Pressler, the veteran greenkeeper of Western Pennsylvania who keeps the golfer of Allegheny Country Club satisfied, has just completed a few big changes in his course. John had a couple of steam shovels working all spring and has had his hands full. He sodded two fairways and did a wonderful job.

Bill Key from Long Vue is taking a few days off from trying power mowers to build a horse show ring. Bill has some nice horses at his club and anxious to get a good place to show them.

Ralph Martin of Shannopin has his course in fine condition. He is getting ready for an invitation tournament and if he gets the breaks with the weather he will hear nothing but praise.

The West Penn Equipment Demonstration was a huge success. About sixty greenkeepers and others who were interested attended. The Highland hills made the tractors show what they had and they showed it. The progress made in equipment the last ten years has been wonderful. Power putting green mowers also drew a lot of attention as well as the tractors and fairway outfits. The deep tillage tools demonstrated with a caterpillar tractor were very interesting. It showed what can be done to break up a hard subsoil and help drainage.