

More About the Season of 1931

Answers to Colonel Morley's questionnaire requesting experiences of greenkeepers during the past summer

No Brown Patch at Los Altos

By TOM NICOLL

Los Altos Golf and Country Club, Los Altos, Calif.

IN ANSWER to questionnaire of September 8, I will give my experience.

One—I have never had webworms.

Two—My greens were not effected with brown patch. I use no preventatives. I depend mostly on compost and good top soil for fertilizers, the compost being generally three years old and never less than two.

I have a regular schedule, aerating and top dressing my greens regularly April and September each year. The spring dressing is composed of good screened top soil, which has been cultivated all the previous summer, mixed with twenty pounds of 8-5-2 commercial fertilizer, made up to my order, for each green.

In September the greens are raked again and raked hard, up and down and across, cut and dressed with compost at the rate of about three-quarters of a yard to one hundred square yards. This is all the fertilizer I use, but I always keep a little sulphate of ammonia on hand to use as a stimulant if required. I may add that I didn't use half a ton of this or any other stimulant all last year.

Three—Yes.

Four—I certainly do think that the injudicious and constant use of highly nitrogenous stimulants alone, makes the greens more susceptible to disease,

Editor's Note



IN LINE with the policy of the National Association of Greenkeepers of America, Colonel John Morley, president of the association, recently sent out his annual letter to greenkeepers throughout the United States and Canada requesting them to report conditions as they found them this season just past. It is a privilege to print for the benefit of those engaged in turf culture a condensed report from the most experienced greenkeepers from all parts of the country. What they say will be helpful to everyone concerned, because their opinions are based upon practical experience as

contrasted with text-book theory.

We quote extracts from Colonel Morley's letter and also print his questionnaire in full. Colonel Morley says:

"We have been through a hard season, hardly any of us has been immune from turf troubles due to the hot weather and drought.

"Golfers generally do not understand how we try to cope with unusual conditions and they are daily asking questions, not in a spirit of criticism but because they want to know and help us in any way they can.

"It seems to me to be our duty to tell the members of our clubs through our official organ, the NATIONAL GREENKEEPER, something about the problems we had to solve in the season of 1931.

"Will you please, therefore, send our magazine a short account of what nature handed you and what you did along the lines of the enclosed questionnaire."

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THE NATIONAL GREENKEEPER

*Prepared by COLONEL JOHN MORLEY, President,
National Association of Greenkeepers of America*

- 1.—Did your turf become infested with webworm? If so, what treatment did you apply, and what results if any did you observe?
- 2.—Was your turf affected with large or small brown patch? If not and you did not use any mercury compounds as a preventative, what methods did you use in the way of fertilization?
- 3.—Do you omit using organic fertilizers during the summer months?
- 4.—Do you think that over-feeding or over-watering hastens fungus diseases?
- 5.—Have you observed various diseases on greens that have been dried out for the lack of water and appear to receive plenty of air?

by acting on the soil as drugs on the body of a human addict, sapping its vitality and leaving it an easy prey to disease.

Only once during my over twenty years' experience as a greenkeeper have I had a sign of brown patch on my own greens, a very slight attack con-

fined to one green. This was some time ago and I am still trying to figure—how come?

When called to other clubs to prescribe for sick greens, where I find brown patch the soil is generally acid. My first step is to neutralize this condition, than to combat and check the disease by some mercury compound, finally aerating the greens and building them up with good compost dressings.

As to over-watering, my own custom is to water nine greens on alternate nights, five nights a week from six to one with sprinklers. Each green therefore gets a thorough soaking three nights one week and twice the next week. Tees get the same watering. The greens that get watered twice this week will be watered three times next week and so on.

I have never found that they suffered by being well soaked if it is not done too often. The danger lies, I think, in little and often rather than in much and seldom. By watering the first part of the night the greens and tees are in fine condition for play in the morning.

My fairways are divided into five sections, each section being watered all night once a week only, no watering Saturday or Sunday nights. They have never had more; they keep in fine conditions and we have no day watering.

Five—No. By building up the greens as we do twice a year I find that they will go quite a while without water without being permanently injured.

Monroe Believes In Air

By E. M. MONROE, *Greenkeeper*

Lakewood Country Club, Edgewater, Colorado

I WILL try my utmost to answer your questionnaire with my experiences. I have been very busy and unable to answer your letter any sooner. After my day's work I am very tired and need my rest for the following day's work. The weather was very hot and very dry here in Edgewater all during the summer and through the fall.

No webworms at all here.

I have found sulphate of ammonia to be one of my best remedies for golf courses during the summer months. It gives me the best results. I do not use any fertilizers during the three summer months. I topdress my greens spring and fall, twice in the fall so as to carry them through the hard and heavy playing during the winter.

I had one brown spot show up in July. I did not use any chemical at all, just stopped with my watering for one night and raised up the grass to let the air in. In two days' time the grass turned green again and the turf was very thick and heavy.

Organic fertilizers may be all right, but I do not use them out here. I have had wonderful success with my method—the old method. The compost pile is my old standby. Your dirt keeps the holes leveled up, the sand opens the hard soil and the manure gives the rest of the results.

Grass is just like a human body. It will only stand so much food and so much water. If you eat too much you cannot digest it and the result is you feel sluggish. If you drink too much what happens the next morning? All because your system cannot take care of it properly until your body gets rest and plenty of air.

Nature must help you along. The same applies to grass during hot weather—you cannot force it too fast and expect best results because it grows too fast that it starts to mat and smother so that heating and the brow patches show up at once.

Air is one of the important portions of human life; so it is of grass. We have to watch ourselves, so on the other hand we have a hard problem to watch the grass so that the air works through its blades. I might say this, everything we live on comes from the earth so I give my greens one night out of a week to dry out during the hot summer months.

I hope this will do others as much good as I have had out of it.

Birmingham Has Trouble

By FRED W. SHERWOOD, *Greenkeeper*

Birmingham Golf Club, Birmingham, Michigan

HAVING perused your questionnaire and being one greenkeeper who was not immune from various diseases of greens. Will try and answer your questions to the best of my ability and trusting same may prove of interest to all chairmen of Green committees and my brother greenkeepers.

Not being familiar with the sod webworm and its habits I can only quote from others more experienced than myself in grass diseases. We had it at Birmingham and suffered from it very badly. If it is the early bird who gets the worm I guess I must