

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

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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-