

What A Hot Summer We Had!!

Wet vs. Dry

By M. E. FARNHAM

SUPERINTENDENT OF GOLF
COURSES

Philadelphia Country Club

THE above title which strikes me as very much to the point when summer conditions are discussed may attract attention if nothing else I have to say does. I think the aspect I have in mind will be easier to reach agreement on than that more frequently before the public.

When members of a club return after their vacations knowing that the rainfall has been abundant, even to excess, they seem to feel that those in charge of golf courses must have been having more or less of a vacation too. I find myself expressing the opinion, rather frequently, that I would rather have drought conditions to contend with than periods of excess precipitation and extreme humidity.

Given the rather doubtful drainage of present on greens, a heavy downpour, followed by bright, hot sun and heavy play—result, for want of a better name, "Scald." In addition, such conditions make fertilizers, especially those organic in nature break down very rapidly, giving the grass too much food, resulting in vigorous soft growth extremely susceptible to attacks of disease and severe injury thereby.

Over-watering may well bring about similar results. Over-watering can be prevented but when the water comes from the

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?

skies what can one do. Keep your soil as open as possible and look to the drainage. Soil as well as surface are my only thoughts on the question.

Brown patch and Philadelphia seem to be synonymous. As a result one more routine operation is added to those necessary to keep the course in shape. There is nothing mysterious about the "patch"

question. The fungus, in one form or another, is around all the time and when conditions are right it becomes parasitic on our beautiful turf and the beauty disappears.

I have been very successful with applications of 1/3 bi-chloride and 2/3 calomel, 2 ounces per 1000 square feet, mixed with screened soil and broadcast once

Here's What the Greenkeepers Say

every 2 or 3 weeks. If the grass is dry we do not hesitate to treat regardless of temperature.

When we seem to have things pretty well in hand something like this webworm comes along. I have not been bothered much on either of our courses and feel that perhaps the fact that our turf is all pretty well poisoned may be an explanation.

Florida Speaks

By O. SPROULE BAKER, *Greenkeeper
Boca Raton Club, Boca Raton, Florida*

1.—WEBWORMS started about July 1. Sprayed arsenate of lead (under pressure of 300 lbs.), into turf forty pounds per green, eight thousand square feet in one hundred and fifty gallons of water. Control not complete. Tried Red Arrow oil of Pyrethrum extract spray one to four hundred which brought them (and with wire worms, ear wigs, bugs and beetles) to the surface stunning them but not a kill to the webworms, all others killed.

By finding the webworms again active next few hours we again sprayed Red Arrow to bring them to the surface and then sprayed them with "Cyanogas," a dust mixed six pounds to one hundred and fifty gallons of water and added forty pounds arsenate of lead to eight thousand square feet. The kill was one hundred percent with not any damage to the turf, other than that which had been done by the sod webworms.

A week later a light shot of sulphate of ammonia, five pounds per thousand square feet. Care should be given not to use either the dust or sulphate of ammonia too close together as the base of carrier of the gas is hydrated lime. (Calcium cyanide dust (Ca Cn) 2) (40 to 50% Calcium cyanide).

Also the "gas" sprayed on the greens where etiolation of plants (yellow spots) is caused by scurvy scale (a soft bodied sucking insect) which most all of us in the past have been passing off as a "Scald" of some kind. We worked this out during this past year by cutting a plug and putting under a strong glass for examination finding the roots infested with the small grayish white scale which we looked up and found to be scurvy scale.

It is also controlled with the usual brown patch dose of one ounce corrosive sublimate, two ounces of calomel per thousand square feet after two or three applications—lime sulphur (32 degrees Baume). Spray one gallon to one hundred and fifty water also is good control if the spray is forced into the mat of grass. It will not burn at the above rate. The reaction of the lime sulphur in the soil is too gypsum, and will leach out. Have found this scale as deep in the roots as two inches. Think I have made a discovery of helpful importance to our brother greenkeepers in this. If so, I am happy to pass it on to you all.

2-A—No brown patch this summer on these Bermuda greens, but did use the corrosive and calomel, one and two ounces respectively per one thousand square feet as a preventative to prepare for seeding to Kentucky bluegrass this next month.

2-B—The mercury compounds with sulphate of ammonia applied in dry form, five pounds per and three times during summer.

3—No; made two applications, each of Milorganite of fifty pounds per thousand square feet about two months apart and top-dressed over the material.

4—Over-feeding is not good at one dose, rather small amounts and often during the season when play is on. (We are closed from April to December,



SCENE ON THE GOLF COURSE AT BOCA RATON, FLORIDA

but maintenance is intensively pursued the entire year with all its vexing problems in this part of the world. Rain? about 17 inches over Labor Day! Drouth all summer).