

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