

# Eradication of Brown Patch

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ARTHUR BOGGS

*Who is not only a worker, but a thinker on golf course maintenance.*

FOR the past three years I have had the cooperation of a capable chemist and excellent laboratory facilities to determine the efficiency of various chemicals in controlling and eliminating brown patch. Turf troubles of this description are due to fungi and the problem presented is the destruction of this mold without injury to the turf. A very great deal of work has been done on this subject by other investigators and numerous chemicals have been tested and tried

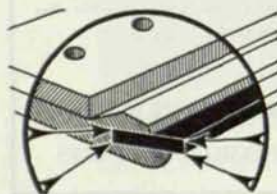
for checking the growth of the fungus or eliminating it altogether.

It is a well-known fact that the alkalinity or acidity of the soil, the kind of fertilizer used and climatic conditions are all important factors which have to be taken into consideration when studying plant diseases of this kind. Furthermore, different types of grass vary in their resistance to the ravages of the fungus.

During the past year we have approached this question in a manner similar to that used by sanitarians for the eradication of diseases in general. We have isolated the fungus in pure culture, which is the principal cause of our brown patch trouble, and have subjected it to the action of different chemicals to test its resistance. The results from this work have convinced us that the organism is intensely sensitive to a group of chemicals which have not heretofore been used, so far as I am able to determine, for the eradication of this turf pest.

One of these chemicals is more than 600 times as destructive to brown patch fungi and other unicellular organisms than pure carbolic acid. We have made practical applications of this chemical and the results have been so outstanding that I hasten to place this preliminary report into the hands of greenkeepers without delay.

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Briefly, our method of procedure has been as follows: Different quantities of the chemical were dissolved in fifty gallons of water and the greens treated in the customary manner. Before the spray was applied cultures were taken to determine the presence of the fungus. Three days after spraying, further cultures were taken and it was found that the addition of as little as 1-2/3 ounces of the chemical were sufficient to eradicate all traces of living brown patch fungus from a green of 5,000 sq. ft. in size.

It should be added that this study was made under strictly controlled conditions. In our practical experiments we were careful to allow small portions of the greens to remain untreated so that the effect of changes in temperature, humidity, etc., could be observed while the treatments were made. It is yet too early to state definitely how long a single treatment will render a green sterile so far as fungi growth is concerned but the outstanding results secured thus far from the use of the chemicals convince us that a continuance of this study is desirable. I will be glad to communicate at a later date any additional results secured.

In the meantime I am endeavoring to secure a supply of the chemical in question and will try to supply greenkeepers at the earliest possible moment with at least limited quantities of this material so that they can determine its efficiency for the eradication of their own brown patch difficulties.

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