

SURVIVED OIL SPILLAGE ON THE GREEN - by Kay K. Sakakihara, Carmicahel
Park Maintenance, Supervisor I, Ancil Hoffman Golf Course

I arrived at work at 5:20 A.M. and was informed the the Greensking Tri-plex had a broken hydraulic line the day before in the morning. It had occurred on Green #5 right through the middle of the Green, about 70 ft long, four inches wide, made a turn and came back on the Green for 25 feet before the operator saw smoke rising from the motor, so the operator backed off the Green. I went to inspect the Green #5, and there it was, hydraulic oil spillage just exactly the way the operator described it. Looking at this Green, many thoughts went through my mind: Ladies' Spring Fling two weeks away, Men's Senior Citizen three weeks away, and our Pro-Am two months away. What can we possibly do but resod. I recalled an article I had read, a product that could be used in a number of ways. One of them was to take hydrocarbon material off a mechanic's hands. I tried the product many times and it really worked for my hands. If this product can take grease and oil off my hands that easy, then why can't it take the hydraulic oil off the Bent Grass? I told my Superintendent about it. He said at this stage you can't hurt it much more, so he gave me the green light to try it.

I took a gallon and a half Hudson Sprayer and mixed about five ounces of Adjuvant to a gallon of Warm water, washed the hydraulic oil spillage area until suds started coming up. I pumped the sprayer up very hard so that there would be a lot of force as the mixture came out of the nozzle. This way, the force would move the grass back and forth. I had a Greens Maintenance Man following after me washing the affected area with water using a 3/4" hose. We did this twice and there were suds all over. Later turned on the sprinkler for about five minutes. After two hours passed, we went to look at the affected area and I rubbed my hands over the grass, there wasn't any oily feeling on my hands anywhere on the Green.

Six days passed and no damage to the Green. Ten days and still no damage. On the fourteenth day a narrow line of dead grass started to appear, about the length and width of a pencil in short streaks. This extent of turf damage we can live with, as compared to four inches wide and seventy feet long, plus another twenty feet that could have happened. If we took action to wash the turf down right after the hydraulic line broke, I'm positive there wouldn't be any damage to day. I was not at work the day the accident occurred so the washing of the turf was twenty four hours after the hydraulic spillage. From the looks of the Green, no major damage has occurred.

I wanted to share our good luck with anyone that perhaps could use this type of information.

The product we used to wash the turf was AMWAY'S ADJUVANT with LOC, 5 ounces to one gallon of warm water.