Greenkeepers Club of New England

NEWSLETTER

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"No man will ever be a big executive who feels that he must, either openly or under cover, follow up every order he gives and see that it is done — nor will he ever develop a capable assistant."

—John Lee Mahin.

The Brown-patch season is with us! On all sides clubs are trying to keep down the ravages of this turf disease. Many are using various control methods which are successful but which add a great deal to the cost, both in materials and labor, of course maintainence. Other clubs which have little money and hence cannot afford expensive control measures merely live with the hope that they will be spared.

The key to this question of how much longer we are to be bothered with this disease lies with us on the golf courses. It is we who must experiment with all the factors which may enter into this disease in all its aspects. We must note all conditions, all fertilizers used, amount of water, temperature, humidity, and the evident effect of each on amount of brown-patch. We must be ready at all times to read and observe, and try out someone else's ideas on our own courses. We must be ready and glad to benefit by any results found by experimentation at Washington and by the experiment stations.

Have you read Dr. Monteith's article in the May issue of the Green Section "Bulletin"? Have you decided it might be worth while possibly to experiment a little with lime?

Each year should bring us all new knowledge. Let us work for it, and learn with open minds!

BROWSING IN BROWN-PATCH

Just why the editor asked me to write about Brown-Patch I can't imagine, unless it was because I was able to hear long discussions on the subject at the Green Section Meeting in New York and at the National Greenkeeper's Convention, as well as elsewhere. I am quite frank to admit that I listened to it all—took notes—studied it all over and when I got through I felt that I had learned this:--**perhaps** the use of sulphate of ammonia has been overdone--**perhaps** if we used lime (the amount not specified) it would help, but might bring in clover--**perhaps** if we carried the greens a little bit "hungry" and **perhaps** if we used a little more complete fertilizer that this disease would not trouble us so much. You see, when I went to these meetings I knew I did not know much about the subject; and when I came back I knew that there were others "in the same boat."

So this Spring we started working along proven lines and as usual used a little lime on our greens, depended on an animal fertilizer, not too rich in nitrogen; and we used arsenate of lead as we did last year. Possibly we have kept the greens a trifle "hungry" this year. To a great extent we have done away with our night watering; **but** we have sprayed **often, early** and **late,** using a trade preparation for the control of Brown-Patch.

So far we have had no signs of Brown-patch except on unsprayed portion of the nursery and on one or two tees. Maybe by the time you read this we will be plastered with it; but somehow I have lost some of my fear of the disease, although we are always on the watch and our sprayer is in good working order!

CARLTON E. TREAT.

BROWN-PATCH CONTROL

For many small clubs the expense of using the chemicals sold for prevention of brown-patch is too great; hence other methods of control must be used, if possible. I have never experimented with any chemicals at all so far. My only treatment is a light top-dressing with sulphate of ammonia. I have had very good success in getting the greens back into shape in three or four days.

Last year I was just about to put on a heavy top-dressing, in fact I had one green finished, when we were hit by brown-patch, and the top-dressed green escaped it all together. The top-dressing consisted of a cubic yard (a third loam, a third sand, and a third humus) and twenty-five pounds of sulphate. My light top-dressing consists of twelve pounds of sulphate and six pails of sand to average size green.

This year I have had seven greens top-dressed when we were hit and those seven have escaped it so far; the other two I put on a light top-dressing immediately and in four or five days they were back in good shape. I don't see that any of the other chemicals will do much better and they are very costly.

I am of the opinion that if you can stimulate the weakened grass immediately with the sulphate it will generally come back.

We were always told it was best to run your greens quite dry during brown-patch season but I think it poor policy to let the roots of your grass get dry while in a weakened condition as nothing will kill it any more quickly.

THOMAS O'LEARY.

BROWN-PATCH COMMENT

Frank Wilson says, "I have used Nu-Green at the rate of one pound to fifty gallons of water, using one pound to a green, sprayed on at a pressure of three hundred pounds as a preventative. We have had two light attacks of large brown-patch which we have combatted with two to four pounds of Nu-Green to a green according to the size. We water in the morning and try to have the greens as dry as possible over night."

Robert Mitchell at Kernwood has found that corrosive sublimate used for worms in May seems to control the small brown-patch in June.

The Hansens have had good results treating with Turfcalomel for both large and small brown-patch. They think they have found that there is a direct connection between the disease and the use of sulphate of ammonia.

Clif Sowerby is using Semesan for control at Marlboro, and both Tom Galvin at Rhode Island and Mike O'Grady at New Bedford have used this compound as a preventative on the greens where they had brown-patch last year.

John Latvis is using corrosive sublimate at Tatnuck for control.

John Shanahan is using Calogreen, about four barrels of solution to a green.

It seems that all of the well-known compounds for brown-patch control are being used with success.

THRIFT, HORATIO

Among the illuminating experiences that come to the greenskeeper on a course where work is plenty and dollars few is the remark often made to him by members passing in their play, "I played the Swansdown Course yesterday. It was in wonderful shape—greens like velvet." If the greenskeeper is a wise man, as of course all greenskeepers are, he will smile genially and say, "Yes, I played that two weeks ago. It is a fine course and in top shape." Perhaps the member will come back with, "They had great piles of black stuff near all the greens. Don't you think some of that would do our greens good?" The greenskeeper, a wise man, as of course all greenkeepers should be, allows it would, but suggests that it costs a lot of money. He knows that the course in question employes three men to his one and spends ten times as much money. Some day he may have a chance to explain this to the interested member, but not now.

It is my job in this round table monologue to speak a word for the greenskeeper on a course where members like to play on velvet greens well mowed and watered, well weeded, well fertilized, but where money is not abundant. Circumstances in the shape of wishes of members and committees often compel him to do the things he ought not to do, and leave undone the things he should have done. He must evolve for himself a working compromise between the desires of the players and the fundamental needs of the course. As he mows, clips, rakes, clears up, patches sod, and busies himself and his men about the work necessary to make his course presentable to the eye and playable to the ball, he may be often disheartened as he realizes the weeds are invading his greens, his nursery bed is getting away from him, his experimental plots are not receiving the attention they need. Everytime he goes around the course he sees many things that need doing. He is aware of the fact that many of these he may be often disheartened as he realthings nobody ever notices but himself. That is but scant satisfaction when he knows that from this neglect the course will suffer more the next year than it will this.

Brother greenskeeper, determine for yourself what you consider the most fundamental needs of the course in your care. Spend as much time as possible on those needs, knowing there will be sure and increasing returns with every year. Spend what time is necessary to make the course presentable and playable. Your reward will be an easy mind and sweet sleep o' nights.

Best of all, inconsiderate members and committees are the rare exception. Your efforts will be appreciated and an occasional remark from a member that your greens are the best in the section barring none, will assure you your work is worthwhile.

DANIEL C. SNOW.

KITTANSETT LOAM BAKER

The loam and compost baker at Kittansett is twelve feet long by six feet wide. There are side walls on one side and both ends, about eighteen inches high; the other side is left open to feed the wood to the fire. On one end there is a small stack for smoke; this can be made of brick or some old iron pipe. I have three pieces of railroad iron running lengthwise to hold up sheet iron where the loam is baked.

The loam is placed on this sheet iron about four to six inches deep, and is

kept turned so as to bake thoroughly. When the loam is too hot to hold in the hand it is shoveled from the baker into the rotary screen. With a good fire it generally takes from twenty minutes to a half hour for one baking.

Fifteen dollars would cover the expense of construction of baker. Two men in a day's baking would bake from four to five cubic yards a day.

I have taken a sample box of loam that was not baked and a sample that was baked, both from the same pile, and kept both samples moist; the sample that was not baked produced weeds which the baked sample did not.

It has been said that baked loam loses its goodness. I have taken a sample from baker that was baked until it was **burnt**, and a sample of **unbaked** loam, planted grass seed in both, and if anything grass came up first in sample that was burnt.

Elliot D. Pierce.

We are sorry to report that Tom Fahey met with a serious accident this past month while working on his course. We are very glad to learn however that he is daily improving, and hope he will be with us soon.

Carl Treat has been building a new tool house this Spring.

The July meeting was held with Mike O'Grady at New Bedford. A round table discussion was held before lunch on several greenkeeping problems. You are to receive some of the points brought out in this discussion in this and future Newsletters. In the golf competition held in the afternoon Tom Galvin and his nephews cleaned up the net prizes and Ed. Phinney won first gross. We were glad to note that the course was in fine shape, and we were especially glad to see the very evident cooperation which exists between the officers and employees of the club. It would be a fine thing for all clubs if there was such cooperation between their various employees and the club officials!

DEMONSTRATION TURF GARDENS

The plots are steadily improving, and considering the fact that they were planted September 16 on a witch grass sod land which was plowed but three days before planting, show some remarkable results, and do not compare unfavorably with the plots at Amherst which were planted about a month earlier.

In our optional row we now have Seaside bent stolons from Kittansett, Kernwood Velvet bent stolons, creeping bent stolons, and Canada Velvet bent seed.

The Chewings fescue plot was about half killed out by small brown-patch during the last of June. Large brown-patch also occured on Washington and Metropolitan bent stolons. The other plots were free from brown-patch.

In the fertilizer plots on South German bent the 12-6-4 ranks best with 6-12-4 second. The plots with Sewage sludge and plots with poultry manure seem to be catching up with the best plots, altho the Sulphate of ammonia is third at this time.

The June application of 12-6-4, 6-12-4, ammonium sulphate, and ammonium phosphate burned the grass. This injured grass was watered heavily and the injury was gone in a week's time. The burn of ammonium phosphate seemed to set back the grass.

The lead arsenate plots are still poorer than the checks.

The fairways plots which are watered are much better than the unwatered plots.

On weed control the fertilizer plots which have the thickest turf have the fewest weeds. The check plots are very weedy, as are the lime and ammonium sulphate, and the bone meal plots.

FRANK H. WILSON, JR.

What effect has lime on your greens?

Do you think that night watering will give you more brown-patch?

How about ammonium sulphate and its connection with this disease?