
# NEWS LETTER

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**AUGUST**

**1933**

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## TEXTURES

A subject little thought about, but always unconsciously in our thoughts when we think of golf course management is **texture.** Whether any grass or strain of grass is of fine, medium or coarse texture may be enough to condemn it, or to boost it, for the use to which it may be put. Thus, we always strive to keep grasses of coarse texture from the putting greens. The reason why the velvets are liked so much here in New England is not only the habit of growth, but is the fine texture, added to their other good qualities.

Where a firm, compact, even sward of grass is desired, such as on the putting green, the grasses or grass used must be of a fine texture, to enable them to knit together more closely, and thus to compact the sward, making a faster green than if coarser grasses were used; for, in general, if other conditions are equal, the finer the grass, the faster the green.

For a perfect green, the texture of the whole green should be uniform, and for a perfect course, all the greens must be uniform. How often we have heard golfers exclaim that one green was fast and another was slow! Uniform greens are gained by using the same kind or strain of grass, and by the elimination of all other grasses or weeds. If a green consists of a few patches of bent, some patches of turf heavily infested with annual blue, pearlwort, etc., the rest a miscellaneous mixture of red top, red fescue, etc., the texture is far from uniform, and a putted ball will not roll evenly, and the results are many three putt greens. The green is unfair to the golfer, and forms one more "hazard" for him to negotiate.

There is a possibility of a uniform putting green derived from mixtures, but the mixture must be even, and the grasses must blend together in such a way that they are woven firmly and compactly. It is far more difficult, however, to establish and maintain uniform putting greens, using a mixture, than by using one grass or strain of grass, so in general we should expect the best results with one grass or one strain.

Weeds are objectionable in greens because they destroy the uniformity of texture. The main objection to the practice of plugging in plugs of bent grown in the nursery is that these plugs are seldom the same texture as the greens. Where this practice is followed, it should be the rule that the grass or strain used for plugging should be of better quality and texture than the grass on the green.

Very few of us can pride ourselves that we have greens of uniform texture and of uniform speed of putting. However, we should recognize the importance of **texture,** and so control our greenkeeping practices that we aim to improve this quality with the ultimate hope of having all our greens of even texture and quality.

## AUGUST MEETING

The August meeting was held at the Belmont Springs Country Club on August 7th. The morning was devoted to a demonstration of the loam baker, and a discussion on "Ants", this latter led by the Chairman of the Entertainment Committee, Robert A. Mitchell.

In the afternoon an 18 hole medal handicap tournament was held. This was the first tournament held since the Golf Committee has raised the handicaps so as to handicap from 72, and with two classes. The results were:

### Class A

1st net, J. Oldfield—85-20-65.
2nd net, G. West—90-23-67.
3rd net, W. McBride—94-24-70.
4th net, J. McCormack—86-16-70.
Special prize, most 4s—E. Masciocchi.

### Class B

1st net, P. Hayden—95-28-67.
2nd net, P. Cassidy—99-30-69.
3rd net, J. Sullivan—98-28-70.
4th net, T. Mattus—100-28-72.
Special prize, most 6s—L. Stott.

## PLACING CUPS, AN ART

**By W. E. Langton**

Reprinted from—

The Pacific Greenkeeper

Of all the jobs done around a golf course one of the most important is the placing of putting green cups. In order to do this it is necessary for the greenkeeper to have a very good idea of the game of golf as well as an accurate knowledge of turf conditions so that he may place the hole to please the players and not wear out the turf. It is perhaps often true that too many greenkeepers place the cup so that there will be least wear upon the green regardless of the benefit to players. However, the fact remains that greens were made to be played upon, and whether it is good for turf or not should not make a particle of difference.

It must be admitted that play is harmful to greens, and the amount of play that a course receives is directly proportional to the amount of harm done. The best greens in at least Southern California seem to be those belonging to clubs which have very little play owing to a limited membership and few tournaments. The writer has seen some very wonderful putting greens maintained at huge cost, but they should be good when one considers the amount of care bestowed upon them and the use they receive. I wish it were possible to bring this fact to the attention of all new chairmen of greens committees. Perhaps then not so many tournaments would be held, visitors allowed, nor caddies permitted to play.

It used to be considered good practice on the part of greenkeepers to divide their greens into nine nearly equal portions. Thus if cups were moved into a fresh portion every three days, twenty-seven days would elapse before any one place was used over again. This gave quite a time for turf to recuperate from the wear it had received while a hole was in the vicinity. This idea was systematic, allowing for perfect rotation, and, provided greens were uniform both in growth and quality, everything would have been splendid. But the best laid plans o' mice and men gang aft agley and is frequently the case with man's systems in regard to nature. It was found that grass does not always grow the same nor produce the same results with the same treatment. Thus one side of a green may be bare of grass and the other densely covered, comparatively speaking.

So with this last factor in mind, the best thing to do is to find the best piece of turf on a fairly flat piece of ground as far removed from where the hole was last time and put the cup there. It takes experience to find these positions, so that the best available greensman should be given the task and be kept at this work permanently if possible.

Some time ago on a very well known course an invitational tournament was spoiled absolutely by poorly placed cups. The members thought the course was too easy so they had conceived the brilliant idea of putting the cups in almost impossible places in order to make the going tough for the visitors. Unfortunately the home players were not used to this kind of thing and as a result they saw all their expensive cups and prizes being carried to other courses. The club official who supervised the placing of these holes is still severely criticised by the players who lost their matches.

If a greenkeeper knows his business and has the interest of both players and greens at heart he will try to satisfy both considerations. At least it is the height of folly for club officials who have no knowledge of greenkeeping and perhaps little more of golf to take it upon themselves to place the cups on the eve of a tournament. Why they frequently insist on doing this is hard to fathom. Do they think the greenkeeper is incapable, or do they think that such an important task should not be sullied by the touch of a working man? Or is it because they wish to have a finger in the pie and look important? There is nothing more humiliating for a greenkeeper than to be told on the day before a tournament that Mr. Soandso will designate the place for the cups. It may mean that the greenkeeper who has worked for the better part of a year to get his course in shape for this one event is robbed of this final touch which would give him the thorough enjoyment of a good job well done.

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The Rhode Island Greenkeepers Association held its August meeting and annual Clambake at the Barrington Golf Club, Barrington, R. I. on August 17th. Over forty members and guests were present.

## BROWN PATCH AND SNOW MOLD

by H. F. A. North—Rhode Island Agricultural Exp. Station.

The turf of the putting green is attacked by many diseases some of which have been studied rather intensively during late years. Newly seeded lawns are often subject to injury by some of these diseases. Fortunately only a few are serious in this section of New England. Usually the two which are most serious are Large Brown Patch and Small Brown Patch. Very briefly the identification and control measures for each will be given in the following.

### Large Brown Patch

(Rhizocetonia solani)

Identification—The rapid wilting and browning of the leaves in a definite and dark margined area of turf is usually caused by Large Brown Patch. The spots often become as large or larger than one square foot. The climate of Rhode Islands seems to be favorable to this disease during the hot, muggy weather of July, August, and early September. During this period Large Brown Patch literally may come "overnight".

Control measures may involve—(1) the growing of varieties of grass known to be resistant (2) the use of mercury chemicals and (3) the use of good cultural practices.

(1) Resistant varieties—In the experimental putting green plats Brown Patch has been found but seldom in the Creeping and Seaside creeping bents, and rather frequently in the colonial bents. It is rather well known that Washington Creeping Bent is markedly resistant to Large Brown Patch. Kentucky Blue Grass has been found to be immune thus far. Velvet bents vary according to strain.

(2) Chemicals for control or prevention of Large Brown Patch—Practically all mercury compounds seem to be effective in proportion to the actual mercury contained. The organic mercury compounds are usually more expensive than the inorganic mercury materials such as bichloride of mercury. A mixture of two such inorganic compounds in the proportion of 1 part bichloride of mercury (corrosive sublimate) finely ground to 2 parts of calomel has been much used with good results since 1927. The bichloride is effective quickly and the calomel has a more lasting preventative action. There are many commercial preparations available and some of these contain approximately the mixture above. Two of the well tested methods for controlling the disease during an attack are as follows: The recommendations are for 1000 square feet of area.

**Method of application**

In a fine spray
Mixed with dry soil

**Mercury mixture**

1 oz. bichloride of mercury
2 oz. calomel
Same as above

**Carrier**

Water—10 gallons
Good agitation of spray liquid is essential

1 pail of damp compost or finely screened sand

**Caution:** These chemicals are poisonous. Spray equipment must be rinsed since the mercury is highly corrosive.

In either application it is essential that mixing be thorough and that an even spread be made. Chemicals should be watered-in rather soon after they are spread. With the dry method it is recommended that mixing be done the day previous to application. After the initial application, if the mercury mixture s to be used again within a week or two the rate can be cut n half or even a third so that 1 ounce of mercury per 1000 square feet is the dose rather than 3 ounces. With the power sprayer even less may be used. Calomel is practically insoluble in water which explains the need for a device to well agitate the spray liquid.

(3) Cultural methods which may be expected to reduce Large Brown Patch disease during the hot, humid weather of July, August, and early September.

(a) Early morning watering, removal of dew, provision for circulation of air.

(b) Adequate drainage and aeration of the soil.

(c) Neutralization of excessive acidity with limestone.

(d) Sparing use of fertilizer during these months.

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**Small Brown Patch or Dollar Patch**

(Rhizoctonia species)

Identification—The usual symptoms are the 1 or 2 inch definite areas which wilt somewhat as with Large Brown Patch. The disease is slower in development than the Large Brown Patch, and the spots remain small taking on a more bleached gray color. The turf may be completely killed in such areas. Small Brown Patch may occur in either warm or cool weather during the growing season.

Control Measures—(1) Resistant varieties—The Colonial Bents are known to be highly resistant to Small Brown Patch. Considerable resistance is shown by Metropolitan Creeping Bent and certain strains of velvet bent but many of the strains of these two species are susceptible.

(2) Chemicals for control—The treatments recommended for the control of Large Brown Patch are just as effective for Small Brown Patch and the same procedure should be followed.

(3) Cultural practices as outlined for Large Brown Patch may be expected to reduce the prevalence of Small Brown Patch also.

* * *

**Snow Mold**

(Fusarium nivale, etc.)

Snow Mold often is unnoticed until spring when definitely margined areas of turf may be found matted and apparently dead. The spots often have a pinkish cast. Often large areas of turf are killed by Snow Mold.

(1) The most susceptible varieties have been those which belong to the creeping bent species. It has been found that seaside bent is susceptible.

(2) Mercury chemicals for control—The same method of use of mercury chemicals as recommended for brown patch has also been found to control Snow Mold. A late fall (October or November) application at the rate of 3 ounces per 1000 square feet should protect the turf until the next growing season.

(3) Cultural practices which may be expected to reduce damage from Snow Mold.

(a) No late fall fertilizing.

(b) Removal of snow which falls upon putting green before the soil has become frozen. It should be taken off within a few days.

(c) Adequate surface drainage.

**REFERENCES**

Bulletins of the U. S. Golf Association, Green Section.

Dickinson, L. S. A New Phase in the Control of Large Brown Patch. Nat. Greenkeeper, Vol. IV, No. 6, June, 1930.

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The next meeting will be held at the New Bedford Country Club, New Bedford, Mass. on September 11th.

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The relatively large amount of rain in August has certainly saved many fairways which had been browned and badly burnt by the drought of July. Most courses experienced plenty of brown-patch, both large and small, during August, as one result of the weather. We shall be pleased to have your experiences of this Summer for the NEWSLETTER. How about letting us have your story of how you have gone through the Summer?

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Line up your pro for the greenkeeper-pro best ball tournament to take place soon, probably the first Monday in October.

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We understand that golf clubs in general do not come under the code, not being operated for profit. We were promised a statement along these lines, but have not received it as yet.

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Incidently, we have been promised many another article. We realize that all of our readers and members are busy these days, but hope that with the advent of cooler weather, and darker evenings, we will receive more articles. How about yours?

# No Price Change

**on Milorganite will be issued before January 1, 1934.**

Fall Fertilization of Fairways with Milorganite has gained in Popularity resulting in better turf and sturdier root growth. It stands the winter better. Milorganite lies dormant during the winter and is all ready at the first sign of spring.

September 22, 1932

### Complete Analysis of Composite Sample of Milorganite

Representing production between July 1, 1931, and June 15, 1932, inclusive

| | As Received Per Cent |
|---|---|
| Moisture | 3.80 |
| Total Organic Nitrogen | 6.25 |
| Equivalent to Ammonia | 7.58 |
| Water Soluble Nitrogen | 0.63 |
| Equivalent to Ammonia | 0.75 |
| Water Insoluble Nitrogen | 5.62 |
| Equivalent to Ammonia | 6.83 |
| Active Water Insoluble Organic Nitrogen (Neutral Permanganate Method) | 4.87 |
| Availability of Active Water Insoluble Organic Nitrogen (Neutral Permanganate Method) | 86.70 |
| Active Water Insoluble Organic Nitrogen (Alkaline Permanganate Method) | 3.50 |
| Availability of Active Water Insoluble Organic Nitrogen (Alkaline Permanganate Method) | 62.30 |
| Total Phosphoric Acid | 2.98 |
| Citrate Insoluble Phosphoric Acid | 0.63 |
| Available Phosphoric Acid | 2.35 |
| Total Potash Soluble in Water | 0.45 |
| Total Potash (Replaceable) | 0.30 |
| Total Potash (Available) | 0.75 |

The following analyses were made by Dr. N. J. Volk under the supervision of Prof. E. Truog, Soils Department, University of Wisconsin.

| | Per Cent | Pounds Per Ton |
|---|---|---|
| Organic Matter | 75.30 | 1506.0 |
| Calcium (Ca), As Calcium Oxide (CaO) | 1.61 | 32.2 |
| Magnesium (Mg), as Magnesium Oxide (MgO) | 1.74 | 34.8 |
| Barium (Ba), as Barium Oxide (BaO) | 0.06 | 1.2 |
| Potassium (K), as Potassium Oxide (K2O) | 0.83 | 16.6 |
| Sodium (Na), as Sodium Oxide (Na2O) | 0.95 | 19.0 |
| Manganese (Mn), as Manganese Sulphate (MnSO4.4H2O) | 0.10 | 2.0 |
| Copper (Cu), as Copper Sulphate (CuSO4.5H2O) | 0.53 | 10.6 |
| Iron (Fe), as Iron Oxide (Fe2O3) | 6.88 | 137.6 |
| Lead (Pb), as Lead Oxide (PbO) | 0.22 | 4.4 |
| Zinc, (Zn), as Zinc Oxide (ZnO) | 0.02 | 0.4 |
| Titanium (Ti), as Titanium Oxide (TiO2) | 0.08 | 1.6 |
| Aluminum (Al), as Aluminum Oxide (Al2O3) | 3.10 | 62.0 |
| Chromium (Cr), as Chromio Oxide (Cr2O3) | 0.21 | 4.2 |
| Sulphur (S), as Sulphur Trioxide (SO3) | 2.79 | 55.8 |
| Arsenic (As), as Arsenic Trioxide (AS2O3) | 0.015 | 0.3 |
| Nickel (Ni), as Nickel Oxide (NiO) | Trace | Trace |
| Cobalt (Co), as Cobalt Oxide (CoO) | Trace | Trace |
| Boron (B), as Boric Oxide (B2O3) | Trace | Trace |
| Iodine (I), | Trace | Trace |

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