



NEWS LETTER



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Lie in three words,—
Health, peace and competence.

— *Pope*



JULY • 1941

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NEWSLETTER

This NEWSLETTER is published by the Greenkeepers Club of New England, and sent free to its members and their Green's Chairmen. Subscription price ten cents a copy, or a dollar for ten copies

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WEED CONTROL ON CLOSELY CUT TURF

J. A. DEFRANCE

Rhode Island Agricultural
Experiment Station
1941

The following information given on weed control with certain chemicals is based on experiments conducted at the Rhode Island Agricultural Experiment Station. Experiments A, B, and C were conducted during the 1940 season. Other tests have been made in previous years.

Experiment A. On plats of Colonial bent, Velvet bent, and Chewing's fescue maintained at a height of one-half inch.

The following chemicals were used mixed with water and applied as sprays from a four-gallon sprayer^a at the following rates per 1000 square feet of lawn area:

1. Sodium chlorate^d one pound to 10 gallons water + five pounds ammonium sulphate.
2. Sodium arsenite^d two ounces to 10 gallons water + five pounds ammonium sulphate.
3. Lawn Sinox^b 10 gallons of a 2% solution^c + five pounds ammonium sulphate.
4. Lawn Sinox 15 gallons of a 2% solution + five pounds ammonium sulphate.
5. Check (no treatment other than 10 gallons water + five pounds ammonium sulphate.)

(a) The sprayer used was a four-gallon, pressure hand-sprayer (cost about \$5.00).

(b) Lawn Sinox was supplied by Standard Agricultural Chemicals, Inc., Hoboken, N. J.

(c) A 2% solution of Lawn Sinox was made by mixing 1.6 pints of Sinox with 10 gallons water (figured on the basis of 10 gallons per 1000 square feet, of a 2% solution).

(d) Sodium chlorate, Sodium arsenite, and Sinox can usually be purchased at stores dealing in garden supplies.

At the time of these tests (August 2nd) crabgrass was in an advanced stage with many leaves, seed heads had not yet formed, and the individual plants covered an area about two inches in diameter. Treatments were applied in the late afternoon (about four o'clock) on a clear day and the temperature was about 70°. Sprinklers were applied on August 6 (four days after treatment as no rain had occurred). The following notes were taken ten days after the treatments were made. Treatments were applied on triplicate plats 10' wide by 20' long.

The one-pound rate of sodium chlorate gave 77% kill of crabgrass and no control of dandelions except temporary injury to the foliage. The foliage of dandelion and plantain was completely burned off but the plants recovered slowly and developed new foliage. Colonial bent was severely injured and Chewing's fescue and velvet bent were only slightly injured with the one-pound rate of sodium chlorate.

The two-ounce rate of sodium arsenite killed 33% crabgrass; clover and dandelion foliage were severely burned but the plants recovered, turf injury was slight.

The 2% solution of Sinox applied at the ten-gallon rate killed 70% of the crabgrass and 100% of the dandelions. Clover was damaged severely and the turf was temporarily discolored but recovered after water was applied.

The 2% solution of Sinox applied at the rate of 15 gallons killed 86% of the crabgrass plants and 100% of the dandelion, however, there was very severe damage to clover and grass and cannot be recommended for turf cut at $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch height, but might be tried on turf not cut so short.

The use of sulphate of ammonia in solution with the other chemicals was

a new departure but thought worthy of trial. Previous experiments (1939) with 2% Sinox at ten gallons per 1000 square feet without the addition of Sulphate of ammonia in the spray gave good control of weeds, and only temporary injury to the turf. If sulphate of ammonia is used in conjunction with any of the chemicals mentioned above it is suggested that $2\frac{1}{2}$ pounds per 1000 square feet be the maximum especially during warm weather.

From the tests it appears that two ounces of sodium arsenite in ten gallons of water, and Sinox (10 gallons of a 2% solution) will give fairly good control of weeds without serious injury to the turf.

Experiment B for Crabgrass Control. On plats of velvet bent maintained at a height of $\frac{1}{4}$ inch (average putting green height). The following chemicals were used at the following rates per 1000 square feet and applied as mentioned in the above tests but did not contain sulphate of ammonia and gave the following per cent kill of crabgrass:

Solution	% Control of Crabgrass
1. Sodium arsenite $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce to 10 gallons of water	75
2. Sodium arsenite 1 ounce to 10 gallons of water	88
3. Sodium arsenite 2 ounces to 10 gallons of water	91
4. Sinox 0.4 pints to 5 gallons of water (5 gal. of 1% sol.)	50
5. Sinox 0.8 pints to 10 gallons of water (10 gal. of 1% sol.)	65
6. Sinox 0.8 pints to 5 gallons of water (5 gal. of 2% sol.)	62
7. Sinox 1.6 pints to 10 gallons of water (10 gal. of 2% sol.)	93

When treatments were applied, August 14 (3:30 to 5:00 p.m.) crabgrass was well advanced but not yet in seed. The day was clear, temperature 84° and the ground was dry. A light rain occurred August 19 (five days after treatment).

These treatments damaged the turf but slightly and caused only temporary browning. In all cases clover foliage was seriously burned but recovery occurred. The five-gallon rate of application did not give as good control or as uniform coverage of the area as did the ten-gallon rate.

Experiment C. Another test primarily for crabgrass control was conducted on Velvet bent maintained at $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch height. The crabgrass was in the three-leaf stage. Treatment was applied using sodium arsenite as sprays at the rates of two ounces, and one ounce in ten gallons of water per 1000 square feet.

Area 1. Treated July 17, with two ounces and eight days later (July 25) once ounce was applied. The application of the two-ounce rate caused some turf injury and appeared to be a little too strong a solution; the one-ounce rate caused very little injury to the turf. The resultant of these two applications was that 98% of the crabgrass and 94% of the clover was controlled.

Area 2. Treatments were applied on the same dates as above but the one-ounce rate was used both times. Only a very slight burning of the grass was noted. The results of these two applications gave 93% control of crabgrass and 75% control of clover.

Area 3. Treated August 1st, and again on August 7, with the one-ounce rate both times produced very little burn and gave a control of 90% of crabgrass and 58% of clover.

The above tests show that crabgrass and dandelions can be controlled with applications of certain chemicals. In previous tests plantain was controlled as easily as were dandelions.

(To be continued)

The July Meeting

Will be held at Concord Country Club, Concord, Mass., on July 7. This will be a greenkeeper-chairman tournament, but you may bring any qualified member of your greens committee or officer.

The Juvenile Department

Howard Farrant recently arrived at second childhood, and to prove it had the Mumps. Maybe you will be old enough to go to school soon, Howard.

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