



UNITED STATES GOLF ASSOCIATION GREEN SECTION

Mid-Continent Turfletter

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WINTERKILL OF BERMUDAGRASS

During the last winter and early spring a great deal of bermudagrass died. Those growers along the northern edge of the bermudagrass zone of adaptation found their losses to be considerable. Fortunately, there seem to be some live sprigs left in most areas and these will enable the turf to become re-established in a relatively short time.

There seemed to be two primary causes of the winterkill. First was desiccation or drying out. This cause of winterkill was treated rather fully in a discussion which appeared in the USGA Journal of November, 1953. Two paragraphs from that article are quoted herewith:

"When soils are cold, plant roots are relatively inactive and water is taken up very slowly. Many times soils remain cold when the air temperature becomes warmer. Thus we have transpiration, or water loss, occurring from the leaves without any accompanying water uptake by the roots. The inevitable result is 'wilting' or desiccation.

Cold affects desiccation in another way. When grass is subjected to freezing temperatures, the water contained in the living plant cells is drawn out of the cells and is frozen in intercellular spaces. When the ice crystals thaw, the water does not go back into the plant cells. The living part of the grass has lost water during the freezing process and because the roots are not functioning normally in the cold soil, water is not being taken up for replenishment of the supply in the cells."

The second cause of loss was disease. On almost all areas where winterkill occurred, large spots or lesions caused by fungal activity were found on the bermudagrass rhizomes. There is very little information available on this type of disease activity which occurs below ground. Therefore it is not possible to say whether disease alone could have caused loss of turf. There is little doubt that it contributed to that loss.

This is an area of investigation that is virtually untouched and much research is needed to determine the degree of damage and the possibilities of successful control.

POISON INFORMATION CENTERS

When workmen handle pesticidal materials such as those commonly used on golf courses, there is always the chance that one of them may become ill from exposure to these materials. Because of the complexity of the chemical nature of economic poisons, physicians may not have treatment procedures immediately at hand. As an aid to the prompt treatment of poisoning victims, a number of POISON CONTROL CENTERS have been set up throughout the country. A partial list for your area is printed below.

KEEP THIS LIST WHERE YOU CAN FIND IT! If one of your men becomes ill after working with pesticides, give your doctor the name of the material and give him this list of Poison Information Centers.

Illinois

Springfield, State Department of Public Health, State Office Building,
400 South Spring Street; Roland R. Cross, M. D., Director of Public
Health* Springfield 6611
Attention: Norman J. Rose, M. D., Assistant Deputy Director,
Division of Preventive Medicine.

Chicago, Mercy Hospital, 2537 South Prairie Avenue, Chicago 16;
Joseph Christian, M. D., Director Victory 2-4700

Indiana

Indianapolis, Poison Control Center, 401 East 34th Street, Indianapolis 5;
Irving Rosenbaum, M. D., Director Walnut 5-1677

Iowa

State Department of Health, State Office Building, Des Moines 19;
Edmund G. Zimmerer, M. D., State Commissioner of Health*
Attention: Madelene Donnelly, M. D., Director, Division of Maternal
and Child Health.

Kansas

Topeka, Stormont-Vail Hospital, 10th and Washburn Streets;
William H. Crouch, M. D., Director Topeka 5-2361 x 218

Kentucky

Louisville, Louisville General Hospital, 323 East Chestnut Street;
Louisville 2, Wm. Curtis Adams, M. D., Coordinator Juniper 2-1831

Michigan

Detroit, Herman Kiefer Hospital, 1151 Taylor Avenue, Detroit 2;
Paul T. Salchow, M. D., William G. Frederick, Sc. D., Co-Directors
Trinity 2-3334

Grand Rapids, Butterworth Hospital, 300 Bostwick N. E., Grand Rapids 3;
Mark W. Dick, M. D., Director Glendale 1-3591

Minnesota

Minneapolis, Minnesota State Department of Health, University Campus
Warren Lawson, M. D., Director Federal 9-7751

Missouri

Kansas City, Kansas City General Hospital #1, 2400 Cherry;
Beryl I. Burns, M. D., Director Harrison 1-8060

St. Louis, St. Louis City Hospital, 1515 Lafayette Street;
Virginia Peden, M. D., Director Central 1-7300

Nebraska

Omaha, Children's Memorial Hospital, 44th and Dewey Streets, Omaha 5;
Director, Poison Control Center Glendale 5400

Ohio

Cincinnati, The Kettering Laboratory, College of Medicine, Eden Avenue
and Bethesda, Cincinnati 19; Mitchell R. Zavan, M.D., Dir. CA 1414

Cleveland, Cleveland Academy of Medicine, 2009 Adelbert Road, Cleveland 6;
George Bedder, M. D., Medical Director, Irving Sunshine, Ph.D.,
Technical Director Cedar 1-3500

Columbus, The Children's Hospital, 17th Street at Livingston Park,
Columbus 5; Warren E. Wheeler, M. D., Director Clearbrook 8-9783

Oklahoma

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma University Medical Center, 800 Northeast 13th St.,
Oklahoma City 4; H. A. Shoemaker, Ph.D., Director RE 6-1511, x 358

Texas

Houston, Baylor University College of Medicine, Texas Medical Center;
Harold L. Dobson, M. D., Chairman, Poison Control Organization Comm.

Wisconsin

Milwaukee, Poison Control Committee, 1513 East Capital Drive, Milwaukee 11;
F. J. Mellenkamp, M. D., Chairman

COMING EVENTS

- June 12-14 - U. S. Open Championship, Southern Hills Country Club, Tulsa, Okla.
- July 14 - Oklahoma Turfgrass Association Field Day, Stillwater, Okla.
Dr. Wayne Huffine
- July 16 - Texas Turfgrass Association Field Day, College Station, Texas
Dr. Ethan Holt
- August 4-8 - American Society of Agronomy Meetings, Purdue University.
- September 30 - St. Louis Field Day, Clayton, Mo. Leo Bauman.

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USGA GREEN SECTION

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