

UNITED STATES GOLF ASSOCIATION GREEN SECTION

SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT
TEXAS A&M COLLEGE
COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS

SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT
PLANT INDUSTRY STATION
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SOUTHERN TURFLETTER

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SOUTHEASTERN AGRONOMIST

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* This is the first issue of the Southern Turfletter. *
* It replaces the Southeastern Turfletter and will go *
* to some of the persons who have been receiving the *
* Southeastern Turfletter. *
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* If your club is located in Texas, Louisiana, *
* Arkansas or Mississippi, you will be served by the *
* Southwestern Agronomist. If you have Bermudagrass *
* greens, however, it appears that the Southern Turf- *
* letter will serve your needs better than will the *
* Mid-Continent Turfletter. The Southern Turfletter *
* and the Southwestern Turfletter have been super- *
* seded by the Southern Turfletter and the Mid- *
* Continent Turfletter. *
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* The Southern Turfletter will be prepared jointly by *
* the Southwestern Agronomist and the Southeastern *
* Agronomist. Your suggestions for the betterment of *
* the publication always will be appreciated. *
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PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE

"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." This should remind you of the past when the preventive type program was helpful. This type of program includes equipment as well as diseases and other "practices related to turf." Even on healthy turf there are fungus spores which will produce disease when weather conditions favor their activity. A preventive spray program may stop some potential disease trouble in its early stages.

CHANGE OVER TO BERMUDAGRASS

The time is near for a change from ryegrass to Bermudagrass. This would be an excellent time to aerify, verti-cut and topdress. Those who overseeded with bent in the winter should consider this an opportune time to aerify and get ready for the long summer growing period.

Do you still have your USGA Journal for the Winter of 1949? If you do, refer to Jim Hamner's article on "Preparing a Southern Golf Course for the USGA Amateur." Jim says, in part:

When the Bermuda began to show the first signs of growth in the spring, Milorganite was applied at the rate of 50 pounds to 1,000 square feet, and 25 pounds to 1,000 square feet thereafter once a month until about September 1. Our experience has been that the steady feeding of the organic nitrogen in Milorganite and the absence of burn to the turf appear to be the ideal source of that form of nitrogen for Bermudagrass.

Preceding the first application of Milorganite, the Aerifier was put on the greens with the one-inch spoons set to penetrate the soil to a depth of four inches. The spooned-out pieces of soil were removed with the Early Bird worm rakes. A topdressing, consisting of one-half coarse sand, one-fourth granulated peat and one-fourth woods soil, by volume, was worked into the greens with flexible steel mats. Very heavy topdressings were used to fill the large holes made by the Aerifier. During good Bermuda growth the holes covered completely in about ten days.

We don't know whether Jim would still use one-inch spoons but his advice is still good.

INSECT CONTROL

Those of you who are plagued with mole crickets, ants or other insects in fairway areas may be interested in the use of an insecticide mixed with fertilizers. The newer insecticides are very adaptable to this usage and many fertilizer companies will prepare the mixture on order. Such an application eliminates one operation and has proved to be very successful when it has been used. This method of application, however, will not supersede other applications at later dates. Sod webworms, etc., will probably require several sprayings to eradicate each egg crop as it is produced during the year.

SPRAYER CALIBRATION

The use of new weed killers on golf courses makes it extremely important to know how much material is to be applied. The new chemicals have a definite range of selectivity and should be applied exactly as directed in order that damages to desired grasses be kept at a minimum.

The following procedure suggested by Dr. R. J. Aldrich and Dr. D. A. Schallock, of Rutgers University, is taken from the Eastern Turfletter:

(1) Divide the width of the boom into 43,560 (square feet per acre).

(2) Measure off the travel distance (answer obtained in step (1)).

(3) Fill the spray tank with water and spray the measured distance with tractor speed and pump pressure set exactly as they will be when applying chemicals.

(4) Measure the amount of water needed to refill the spray tank upon completion of step (3). This quantity is the number of gallons required to cover an acre of ground with your equipment.

If more than 20 gallons are applied to the acre the spray pattern should be checked for uniform coverage. This can be done by making a "wet" run over a dry concrete or asphalt pavement and watching for streaks to appear while the water evaporates. A bright, colored dye can also be used to check distribution on grassed areas.

TURF CONFERENCES

The Southern Turf Conference was held February 25 and 26 at the Colonial Country Club, Memphis, Tennessee. A record-breaking crowd of 136 was present. All who attended the conference received a real benefit judging by the interest shown by audience participation - both asking and answering questions.

Tifton's 11th Annual Southeastern Turfgrass Conference had 135 in attendance, representing 16 states. This rapid-fire conference, field day and equipment show gave a good cross-section of the new turf maintenance practices.

We owe a hearty vote of thanks to experiment stations, colleges and turf associations which make these programs possible.

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USGA GREEN SECTION

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