

We have no difficulty in keeping the bur clover out of the greens. If in early spring it becomes too heavy for play, it will die down with the first cutting and by the middle of May will have entirely disappeared, except that the seed burs may be seen scattered throughout the fairways. We are looking forward next year to our fairways being completely covered. As our soil has a tendency to bake badly, the bur clover has without doubt been a great benefit in loosening the soil. On sandy soils or in the black-land country, it is probable, however, that it would be of little advantage.

The Leaf-Spot Disease of Bluegrass

By John Monteith, Jr., United States Department of Agriculture

In the early part of June of this year the Kentucky bluegrass on the fairways of the Pine Valley Golf Club, Clementon, N. J., appeared brown and unhealthy, as if suffering from drouth. Since there had been abundant rainfall it was evident that the browning of the grass must be due to some cause other than insufficient moisture. A close examination of the plants showed that the trouble was due to numerous small spots scattered over the leaves, which gradually spread until the leaves were entirely brown. This same disease was later reported on the fairways of the Merion Cricket Club, Philadelphia. It probably occurs to a greater or less extent on many other courses, since the disease is widespread on bluegrass.

The disease is readily distinguished by the small spots or blotches scattered over the green leaves. These spots have a grayish or light brown center with a reddish-brown or black border. They may be extremely small or may extend across the full width of the leaf. The spots enlarge and join, with the result that the entire leaf becomes brown. They may cause the leaf to wither and gradually become brown without the production of many distinct spots. In severe cases practically every leaf on the plant is killed or badly spotted, but as a rule the youngest leaves are only slightly injured. In extreme cases the plant may be killed at the crown. The fungus causing this disease is closely related to those causing stripe, netblotch, spotblotch, and similar serious diseases of various grain crops. It is quite distinct from the brown-patch fungus. Unlike brown-patch, it is not limited to patches but produces a general dried-up appearance over the whole affected area.

The unusual weather conditions of the spring were apparently exceptionally favorable for the dissemination and development of this disease, for while it has been observed in different parts of the country during the last few years it has not heretofore been regarded as a dangerous pest. Mr. Alan Wilson says this is the first time he has observed this browning of the bluegrass on the Pine Valley course at this season. The fescue growing with the bluegrass on the fairways was green and healthy.

It seems unlikely that the disease will become a serious pest in most seasons. Spraying or dusting with Bordeaux mixture would probably check the disease if the treatment were made as soon as the disease is noticed and before many leaves are killed. However, no such treatment has been reported, and therefore this is not recommended except on a small experimental scale if conditions seem to require such measures. The disease kills the older leaves but takes some time to infect and kill the new blades. Therefore any treatment with quick-acting nitrogenous

fertilizers or top-dressing which would stimulate the plants to produce new leaves would result in hiding the killed leaves and give a more healthy-looking turf. This method will no doubt be found entirely satisfactory, for the disease does not ordinarily kill many plants and therefore produces only a temporary unhealthy appearance of the fairways.

Some U. S. Golf Association Decisions on the Rules of Golf

QUESTION.—An entrant qualifies and defaults his first match. Is he eligible to play in the defeated eights? This question was brought up through a peculiar circumstance connected with the Florida State Amateur Golf Tournament. A qualified in the 6th sixteen; he defaulted the original match, and then he was put in to the defeated eight in that flight. Then he drew a bye that was scheduled to play B for the third round honors. Then B defaulted and A moved in the semi-finals. C and D simultaneously defaulted their third round match. A then was alone in the semi-finals, with only defaults ahead of him, consequently winning the defeated 8th trophy without swinging a club. Can you imagine that such a condition would ever occur?

ANSWER.—The Rules Committee of the United States Golf Association has always taken the stand that a player who has withdrawn from match play is not entitled to compete further in the tournament. This would disqualify the player you mention from playing in the defeated eight. As a matter of information, the United States Golf Association recommends that a man winning the medal prize in a qualifying round for subsequent match play and then withdrawing his score from the match play, is not entitled to the medal play prize, as the Association considers this part of the match play tournament.

QUESTION.—In the Metropolitan Open at Lido, two of the best professionals topped their tee shots in the water at (I think) the 4th hole. Both re-teed balls and continued playing.

ANSWER.—Cases like this are always treated under the specific water-hazard rule, Rule 27, and players therefore would not be allowed to re-tee unless there were a local rule covering the same.

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