

The GOLF COURSE

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Editorial

GRASS seed mixtures continue to receive a great deal of attention. Most of this attention is from Green Committee Chairmen and Greenkeepers who have successfully used certain grass seed mixtures for a long period of years. We say successfully used, because we cannot conceive of anyone purchasing over and over again seed mixtures which have given unsatisfactory results.

Despite the propaganda spread by those who term all mixtures "mysterious" and "miserable," we, and other commercial houses have repeated requests to furnish mixtures for putting greens and fairways, rough, and bunker-sides—the same mixtures as were supplied in previous years. This is a demand which will continue so long as suitable mixtures, which produce good results, are offered on the market. There are, however, bad mixtures as well as good mixtures, and if the consumer cannot put full confidence in a seed house, we agree that individual varieties of seed should always be purchased, and never mixtures.

We do not champion the cause of the mixtures, neither do we attack it.

It should make no difference to the seedsman whether he sells individual varieties of seed or a mixture. The profit on the seed the consumer receives should be the same, whether

the seed is mixed or the varieties delivered separately.

With a little careful study of seedsmen's price lists and catalogues, the buyer should be able to know just about what percentage of the different varieties of seed the seedsman uses in his mixtures.

There is really nothing mysterious about the mixtures which reliable seedsmen market today, for any honest seedsman will tell his customer just what a mixture contains.

If a seedsman is offering Chewings New Zealand Fescue, for instance, at 75c per pound, Mixed Bent at \$2.25 per pound, and Fancy Re-cleaned Red Top at 35c per pound (considering these varieties as the proper constituents of a putting green mixture), the buyer should realize that if the same seedsman advertises a putting green mixture at 60c per pound, he is not including in the mixture a suitable percentage of the high priced species, i.e., New Zealand Chewings Fescue and Mixed Bent.

Taking as a basis the prices quoted on the individual varieties, and assuming that a putting green mixture should contain, say 70 per cent. New Zealand Chewings Fescue, 20 per cent. Mixed Bent and 10 per cent. Red Top, the mixture should cost approximately \$1.00 per pound. The cost to the seedsman of mixing the seed is a comparatively small item, and to cover it he is not justified in charging more

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PROFESSIONALS and greenkeepers frequently request us to advise them where they can secure situations. We shall be glad to furnish the names of competent men.

phide of Carbon, either alone or in a mixture. If used too strong it will kill the grass. It is also highly explosive.

A very effective method to destroy Ant hills in fairways or in any location other than on putting greens, is to pour 2 or 3 ounces of Bi-Sulphide of Carbon into a hill and then explode the vapor by touching it off with a lighted match fastened to the end of a long stick. The explosion not only destroys the hills but drives the fumes down into the deepest chambers of the nest, kills the live Ants and buries the larvae and pupae so thoroughly that they can never make their way to the surface.

This method, of course, could not be used on a putting green as it would destroy too much of the existing turf.

A very efficient method to be used on putting greens is as follows:

Mix $\frac{1}{3}$ Bi-Sulphide of Carbon and $\frac{2}{3}$ Lemon Oil Insecticide. Add to 1 gallon of this mixture, 1 gallon of water. Mix it thoroughly. Saturate small pieces of cotton-batting, approximately 1 to 2 inches in size, with the liquid. Stuff this into the Ant hole and immediately press the Ant hole down with the heel in such a manner as will close the hole at once. The fumes of this mixture will penetrate downward and should in a short time effectively get rid of the ants. It may be necessary to repeat this once or twice during the season.

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than a cent or a fraction of a cent per pound additional.

If Mixed Bent is not included in a Putting Green Mixture (and it is often impossible to include it because of the great scarcity of this seed), a good mixture would in most cases be composed of say 80 per cent. Chewings New Zealand Fescue and 20 per cent. Fancy Recleaned Red Top. Again taking the above prices on individual varieties as a criterion, the price of

this mixture would be 67c per pound. In the same way it can be figured out quite closely just what varieties of seed the seedsman includes in his other mixtures.

To sum up the situation, the consumer should always judge the seedsman's prices by quotations on individual varieties and not be influenced by a low quotation on mixtures.

Mixtures can be made up at a very low cost and sold at a very big profit, and the purchase of such mixtures is the greatest extravagance which a Club can indulge in.

From the above it can be easily seen that if the seedsman is honest, it makes no difference to him whether he sells a mixture or not, and there is no reason for a good seedsman to urge the purchase of his mixtures, except that in most cases the buyer does not know as well as the seedsman just what grasses will produce the best results.

We believe, as do most others, that New Zealand Chewings Fescue, European Red Fescue (when stock of true strain is available), and Mixed Bent or Colonial Bent are the best grasses for a putting green. We do not believe as a rule in sowing new greens with Fescue alone, or even Bent alone, and in this we disagree with certain authorities. Our experience has been that it is more satisfactory in most cases to use Fescue, Bent and a small percentage of Red Top, as a cover crop, in new seeding. When Bent is not available, which is often the case, we usually recommend approximately 80 per cent. Fescue and 20 per cent. Red Top.

The reason for this discussion of mixtures is to make it perfectly clear to all of our customers that we are always glad to tell them exactly what our mixtures contain, and how we arrive at the prices we quote on our mixtures. It is also our idea to let them know that it pleases us just as well to sell individual varieties of grasses as to sell mixtures.