Dates Set for Michigan State Greens Short Courses

Descriptive catalogs are now available for the short course in greenkeeping to be held Jan. 3 to March 4, 1938, and the two-day greenkeeping conference, scheduled for March 3 and 4, at Michigan State College, East Lansing, Mich., and interested greensmen are urged to secure this literature at an early date if they plan to attend either educational opportunity.

The courses are open to anyone more than 16 years of age without entrance requirements or examination, and costs are moderate. Fee for the 8-week course is $5 for residents of Michigan, $10 for non-residents. Books and supplies will run about $10 and board and room from $7 a week up, depending on accommodations. Fees for the 2-day conference are nominal.

For literature, write Director of Short Courses, Michigan State College, East Lansing, Mich.

Tells Origin of Washington Strain Bent

RALPH BARTON, well-known golf architect, passes on some interesting information he recently secured from Bobby McWatt, pro at Lancaster (N.H.) GC, relative to the origin of the Washington strain of creeping bent. Writes Barton:

"At the time of the first seeding of the greens of the Columbia Country club at Washington, the seed was purchased from Carter's as German creeping bent. It happened that a heavy downpour of rain following soon after the seeding washed..."
the seed out of all of the greens but one, a punchbowl, where the seed was all washed to the center and sprung rich and plentiful in a small spot. Dr. Walter S. Harben gathered some of this grass that grew in the bottom of the punchbowl and cut it up with scissors and planted it in rows with startling results which was the production of our Washington strain bent.

"Undoubtedly, with their unusual care and precision, Carter's can trace this order and maybe locate the source of this particular lot, thus establishing the real place of nativity of the Washington strain."

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Uses Peat Moss to Protect Turf From Gallery Damage

JOHN McNAMARA, greenkeeper at the Pittsburgh Field club, solved the problem of keeping clubhouse grounds from becoming damaged by the trampling of tournament crowds by sprinkling peat moss liberally on well-traveled grassy areas during the PGA championship. Peat moss also was put on the paths around tees and greens with the result that the large gallery and the rains left no signs of tourney wear.

McNamara, who succeeded his late and widely-known father as the club's greenkeeper, had the course in marvelous condition for the tournament. Commenting on the Field club's excellent maintenance, Emil (Dutch) Loeffler, veteran pro and supt. at Oakmont, remarked:

"The course is a credit to the way young John was trained by a very able father. The boy knows every handful of grass and soil on the course and knows how it should be treated.

"I'll make a brag that the Pittsburgh district* has the best conditioned courses

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