

We Are Converted to Bent

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THERE has been a very wide difference of opinion among the members of the Scarboro Golf Club as to what is the proper grass to use on a putting green, and this wide divergence of opinion has been rather a costly one to the club. In spite of the articles appearing in all golf periodicals extolling the merits of creeping bent this class of grass was the least that appealed to the members, and in order to show them that bent was the grass for our course we had to plant a nursery and show the Green committee what bent would do. To revert back to the beginning it would be well to explain the history of the Scarboro Golf Course during the past five years.

In 1923 the members of the Club decided that the course was not good enough and decided to appropriate \$40,000.00 to carry out an extensive program of work. A very prominent architect was employed to lay out the course and greens, and after the plans were submitted to the members the directors were empowered to go ahead with the work.

Weeds Crowded Out Newly Seeded Greens

Construction went on very rapidly and a number of the greens were ready for seeding in the late fall. From the experience we had in connection with the construction of the greens we could now fill a small sized book with "don'ts," but as this is not the purpose of this article we are only too glad to forget that part of the trouble. The next thing was the selection of seed, and after consultation with a number of "so called" experts seed was obtained from a very prominent seed house. Germination and purity lists were received from the government, and these tests showed the seed to be high in germination and practically free from impurities. Seed was scattered most profusely on the new greens, and everyone looked forward in anticipation of having wonderful putting greens in a year or so. The first showing of the new grass was enough to make us all very optimistic, but after about six or eight weeks our grass gradually began to disappear, and the most flourishing crop of weeds that it was possible to see started to sprout. Hoping that things would turn out for the best the Green committee decided that they would wait and see the outcome.

Up to date we have a very fair covering of grass on our greens, but of what variety no one knows, the grass being of a coarse nature and not at all suitable for a putting surface. Last fall we rebuilt three greens and after much coaxing and persuasion we were allowed to

use creeping bent. These bent greens seemed to flourish from the very start and while they are by no means perfect as yet, we think we will be able to solve our putting green problems by the use of this class of grass.

Sodding Bare Patches with Bent

Large patches on a number of our putting greens died out this spring and we were at our wits' end as to what to do to get them into playing condition. We planted a small amount of bent last fall, and while this had not matted, yet we decided to take it up as sod and place on the greens. After we had laid the sod we put on a very heavy top dressing, and sowed red top over the bent. Results at first were very discouraging but we gave the experiment a full trial. We decided that we would top dress lightly with sulphate of ammonia mixed with a very fine sandy loam, and to this we also added charcoal. We kept watering continually, and we were more than surprised in a very short time at the results of our experiments. The red top of course predominated at first, and is still showing in patches. The bent, however, is growing very rapidly and is pushing the red top out, and we have on those patches now a very passable putting surface. What is more to the point, we have convinced our members that bent is the grass for our putting greens, and we are now empowered to cultivate as much bent as possible, so that when we want to put down a new green we can go to our turf garden and lift enough sod to put it in playing condition in about two weeks.

Our new greens that were planted to bent in the fall also gave us some anxiety in the spring. Weather conditions were entirely against the growing of grass, but we kept on steadily with our applications of fertilizer and top dressing, also watering heavily. At the first sign of warm weather we anxiously waited the results of our work, and I am glad to say that our efforts are being rewarded. While our new greens are yet far from perfect we are getting a nice carpet of grass and we believe that we have reason to congratulate ourselves on the progress we have made, and are looking forward optimistically to the future.

Setting Mowers High for New Bent Grass

Before bringing this article to a close we would like to make some observations on our experiments. In the early part of the season we decided that we would not cut the bent very close as we wanted to get the ground covered as quickly as possible in order to conserve mois-

(Continued on page 28)

courtesy we have asked of him. Here and now we ask our members to give him a rising vote of thanks at the convention, which he will address on the 24th, not only for what he has done for you but for what he stands for, a scientist who is always seeking for the truth, and who acknowledges that it is sometimes a long search. Brown-patch is a humid subject, but at times it does not lack humor. Dr. Monteith sent us a photograph of himself this summer labeled, "This is neither large nor small brown-patch."

CORRESPONDENCE relating to the coming convention is heavy these days. Greenkeepers who have been late in joining are sending in their memberships, and we look for a large increase in the association family before the annual meeting date.

SEVERAL chairmen of Green committees have written asking if the convention will be open to them. Our members who are planning to attend should extend invitations to their chairmen to come and hear the programs on the 23rd and 24th. Every member should impress it upon his chairman that the association welcomes him, that he may at first hand determine the value of our organization to the greenkeepers and golf clubs of America. Don't forget to talk with the chairman of your Green committee, and *do it now*.

SOME of the most expert greenkeepers in the United States and Canada will speak at the convention. Among them, Edward B. Dearie of Chicago; W. D. Chinery of Eglinton, Ontario; Joseph Valentine of the famous Merion Cricket Club, Philadelphia; Captain David L. Rees of the Progress Country Club, New York; Joseph T. Van Hagen (before mentioned); L. J. Feser of Wayzata, Minnesota. These, and others we will report in the January issue.

THE wives of our members will be welcomed into Detroit the week of February 21 by a special Women's Entertainment committee to be appointed by Mr. Alex McPherson, Treasurer of the association. We find there are innumerable instances where Mrs. Greenkeeper is the first assistant to her husband in his work. Bring your first assistants, and they will be well taken care of during the convention. The meetings of the 23rd and 24th are open to them, and Mr. McPherson's committee will see that they enjoy themselves during the week. In the coming January issue, the program of entertainment arranged by the Women's Entertainment committee for the convention will be published.

Keeping Sand Greens

(Continued from page 5)

vent the oil from soaking into the area outside of the green. I then put on four barrels of oil, allowing it two days to soak in. Then the ridge of dirt is removed from around the outer edge of the green. This dirt will have to be hauled away as a part of it will be oil soaked.

Next I sod up around the outer edge of the green. I leave this sod about two inches above the base of the green with the exception of a space about two feet wide at the back of the green where I lower the sod a trifle to allow the surface water to drain off.

Putting on Finishing Touches

Finally the green is ready for the sand. First the sand is screened to remove the pebbles, after which it is mixed with oil at the rate of twenty shovels of sand to three gallons of oil. The green is then covered with this oiled sand about one and one-half inches deep. Each morning my greens are raked with a wooden leaf rake and dragged smooth with a wooden float. I start at the cup, dragging in a circle to the outer edge of the green. During the playing season when the sand becomes too dry oil is added with a sprinkling can and, if the sand is too thin, new sand is added.

Special Drag With Round Edges

I have a drag at each green so that the players may smooth out any rough places that interfere with play. For these drags I take four by fours, two feet long to the planing mill and have them turned out round with a handle in the center making a T. The round edges of this drag smooth out the sand and do not drag the sand off the green as badly as some other types do.

During the winter months all the worn sod around the greens is taken up and replaced with new sod. For re-sodding around my greens I keep a large area of Bermuda and buffalo grass in my nursery.

We have one creeping bent green that will be ready for play in the spring. We hope to build all grass greens in the near future.

I would like to read more articles in the NATIONAL GREENKEEPER on sand greens. I feel that we all have a great deal to learn about sand greens as well as grass greens.

Converted to Bent

(Continued from page 6)

ture. We did not, however, let our grass grow rank but kept our machines up more than we would ordinarily do. When growing conditions started to improve we let our machines down and cut much more closely. Cutting daily we left the clippings on the green and while we cannot tell if this did any good yet we know that it did not do any harm, and we are still continuing this. Too much

cannot be said of the benefit of sulphate of ammonia. We apply this fertilizer heavily and often, and the results we are obtaining are most gratifying.

We have several instances of scorching, but with continual watering the brownness soon disappears, and the grass quickly regains its natural colour.

Top Dressing with Compost Distributor

We had never much faith in compost distributors but we saw a machine advertised which appealed to us, and we decided to have it sent to us on trial. Our first experiments with this machine were not very satisfactory as the compost did not seem to flow evenly from it. We then tried putting the compost through a quarter inch screen before putting it in the distributor, and we found we had hit upon the proper solution. One machine now spreads very evenly a very light top dressing, and after we work it into the roots of the grass with a mat you can hardly tell that the green has been top dressed.

We have a very fine sandy loam on our course which we use for covering the greens and we top dress weekly, and find that this is well suited to the bent, and does not

retard the growth in any way. We have also been applying powdered charcoal but cannot tell what effect this has, but we do know that immediately we started using it our greens seemed to pick up very rapidly.

Up to the present the conclusions we have arrived at are these:—

Use sulphate of ammonia freely but with judgment.

Cut your grass daily and fairly short.

Pour water on the greens.

Top dress lightly and often.

There is no doubt that our methods will be freely criticized, and if this article opens up a field of discussion in regard to the merits and demerits of our methods then we will feel that we have accomplished something. It is only by an interchange of opinions among ourselves that we can hope to progress in this wonderful field of growing grass. I get a tremendous amount of good information out of this magazine. In fact, no interruptions are welcome the first evening after I receive a new copy of the NATIONAL GREENKEEPER.

March Convention Number

The March Convention number of the NATIONAL GREENKEEPER will be the biggest and most widely circulated trade paper ever published in the golf maintenance field. It comes off the press just as the Golf Show and National Greenkeepers' Convention opens at Detroit, February 21, and will be the official publication of the convention.

Every worthwhile product in the line of machinery, equipment and supplies used on the golf courses of America will be described in this special convention number. It will be a reference volume which every buyer will get and keep.

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