



*Cutting 'em Close at Sylvania*

greens, well we've spent plenty on them. Weeds simply can't get through that turf, it's too thick and matted.

But weedless as they practically are, yet the brown patch gets into them during the hot sultry weather, and this pest is not to be ignored but met and mastered at once, if at all. My experience has shown me that the only real remedy is a top dressing of sand and a good dose of sulphate of ammonia followed up with a lot of water. This treatment turns the trick the quickest and most effectually of anything I've ever tried.

Now don't mistake me, I don't claim to be an expert in bent greens. All I know about them is what I've dug out by observation, experiments and mistakes.

One instance in the mistake line: I prepared three greens for bent, thinking I had plenty in the nursery bed for all three. But my judgment was wrong, there was just enough for two. So I took my men, went down to the creek, gathered thirty two baskets of the stolons and planted what is known as No. 1 green. It came up fine but there are five different strains of bent in that one green.

But for greens, I'm sold on the bent. It's easier to plant, comes up quicker, is easier to care for, free from weeds, except a few summer ones that are a result of the top dressings, and best of all it gives what a green is built for—a perfect putting surface.

## *Why I Use Charcoal*

Bp JOHN MORLEY, President  
The National Association of Greenkeepers of America

For some years I have found fine granulated or pulverized charcoal an aid in the keeping of good putting greens. I have been asked many times why I use this material on my greens, and there are several good reasons.

Perhaps the most important mission of charcoal in the soil is its moisture absorbing quality. Charcoal acts like a sponge in the soil, absorbing and retaining water gases and solutions. It shrinks very much in bulk when dried, and expands similarly when it takes up water. When soil comprising the putting green contains charcoal, it prevents the surface from cracking open in hot dry weather, and also helps to keep the nitrogen in the soil. On the other hand, when rain falls, charcoal in the soil expands and allows more water to enter the subsoil which can later be drawn up by the energy of the sunrays to the tiny hair roots of the grass plants.

An application of approximately 150 pounds to the ordinary sized putting green, either in the fall or the spring, is what I use at the Youngstown Country Club. I find that it improves a sticky clay soil, and encourages a clean growth of grass on my greens. Although not an available plant food, it contains carbon-dioxid, a gas from which grass plants can assimilate carbon, and carbon enters more largely into plant tissue than any other element.

## GOLF MAINTENANCE PROBLEMS

What puzzles you may be puzzling the other fellow. Send in your questions for the February issue of THE NATIONAL GREENKEEPER to 407 Caxton Building, Cleveland, Ohio.