

Bermuda Fairways, Tees and Lawns

By CHESTER MENDENHALL, *Greenkeeper*
Sim Park Golf Course, Wichita, Kansas

BERMUDA grass is a southern grass which likes hot summer days and will not withstand severe cold weather. Wichita, Kansas is about the northern limit for it to be successfully grown. To my knowledge Bermuda grass greens have never been tried this far north. I have been growing Bermuda grass on fairways, tees and lawns for the past seven years, and I expect to plant a Bermuda grass green on the Sim Park Golf Course this coming spring for experiment.

Bermuda grass is of the creeping vine nature. Its nature of growth is similar to Columbia bent, Bermuda being far coarser and roots much deeper in the ground. Bermuda grass roots down to a depth of four to six inches and these roots will run out from two to three feet in cultivated soil, sending runners up to the top. This feature makes Bermuda grass very troublesome around flower beds, shrub beds and grass greens planted to other varieties of grass.

Bermuda Makes Fine Tees and Approaches

Bermuda is a wonderful grass for tees, owing to its ability to quickly cover where it is torn out with a club. As for fairways there is no other grass in this part

of the country that will stand so much hard usage with so little care. It requires a great deal of mowing during the hot weather, especially where fairways are fertilized and watered, as the hot months are its best growing season. I use a great deal of Bermuda grass on my approach to the greens, say from fifty to seventy-five yards in front of the green. As every greenkeeper knows, this is the part of the fairway that gets the hardest play.

Planting the Giant Variety

There are several varieties of Bermuda grass. The variety that we find does best here is the giant or hardy Bermuda. I have been growing this variety for the past five years. It has a much heavier root system than other varieties and also heavier foliage, and has survived winter weather with a temperature of twelve degrees below zero coming through in fine shape while other varieties were seriously damaged by the severe cold.

Bermuda grass is most successfully grown from planting the roots—it is seldom satisfactory to sow seed in

(Continued on page 26)



John Morley

A Chat With Our President

VICE-PRESIDENT John McNamara of the Pittsburgh Field Club, Aspinwall, Pennsylvania has had good results in ridding his putting greens from ants by using black pepper.

THE officers of this association have done their part in securing for our next convention one of the best convention cities in the United States, and one of the finest hotels in Detroit, Michigan, Hotel Fort Shelby. The management has given us a suitable hall for our meetings. It is now up to the members to fill it, and I might add that from all appearances it will be filled to capacity.

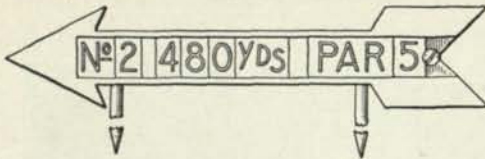
BLESSED is that friend among friends who does not have to be assured every hour or so that you are his friend, who trusts enough to count on your friendship without constant reminder that it still exists. He is the rare and precious pearl among friends.

L. J. FESER, Wayzata, Minnesota, says the essential characteristic the greenkeeper must have is love of Nature. He may have all the other essentials, but he will fail before he has begun if he cannot love the beauty and perplexities of the Great Greenkeeper.

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(Continued on page 30)

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Bermuda Fairways

(Continued from page 12)

this part of the country as the seed germinates very slowly. Weeds and crab grass will appear far ahead of the young Bermuda grass, therefore making a very bad weeding problem. Bermuda grass roots should be planted in the spring about May fifteenth to June fifteenth, this seeming to be about the best time. The ground should be prepared about the same as for planting other varieties of grasses. I prefer planting the roots in parallel trenches two to three inches deep and spaced twelve to fourteen inches apart. The roots should be laid in these trenches end to end and covered with soil. After planting the ground should be thoroughly watered and kept wet for several days until new shoots of grass begin to show through the ground. The reason for planting in parallel trenches is to make cultivation and weeding easier later.

Keep Weeds Out of New Plantings

Bermuda grass should receive constant care until the ground is completely grassed over, as Bermuda will not successfully compete with crab grass and other weeds until it becomes thoroughly established. After Bermuda grass has once become thoroughly established and the ground entirely covered nothing can compete with it.

(Continued on page 28)

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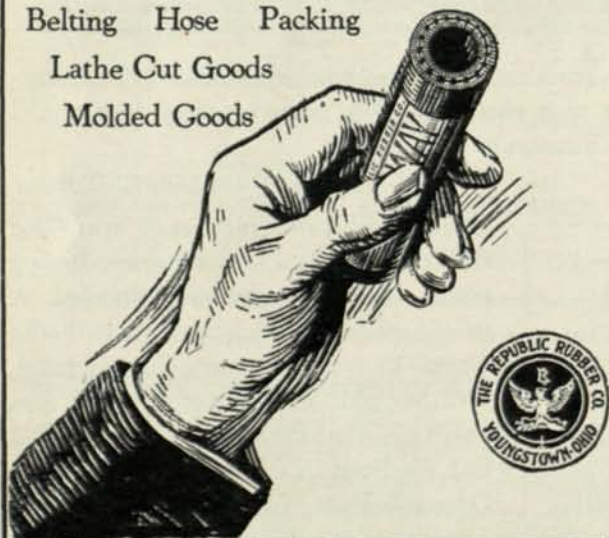
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Bermuda Fairways

(Continued from page 26)

Bermuda should be kept clipped fairly close and should be watered frequently during the hot dry weather.

A great many seem to think that Bermuda does not need fertilization, but I find it does best in good rich soils with plenty of fertilizer.

I topdress this grass in the spring and again in late summer or early fall with a compost of one-third well rotted manure, one-third sharp sand and one-third good top soil.

The principal objections to Bermuda grass is that it turns dead and brown at the first heavy frost, and does not green up until late in the spring, that it is rather hard to mow and it creeps in every shrub and flower bed by its underground roots.

Southern Greenkeepers, Speak Up!

As I have said before my experience with Bermuda grass has been confined to fairways, tees and lawns. I would like to read something in the NATIONAL GREENKEEPER on Bermuda grass greens, written by one of our Southern members who has been successful in planting and maintaining them.

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