



Around the Office Desk



Tournament Schedule

September

- 2-7 National Amateur, Pebble Beach, Cal.
- 9-12 Women's W. G. A., Flossmoor G. C.
- 9-13 Women's Invitation, Shawnee, Pa.
- 10-13 U. S. Seniors, Apawamis Club.
- 11-14 Canadian Seniors, Royal Ottawa G. C.
- 23-25 Westchester Co. Open, Gedney Farm G. C.
- 23-28 Canadian Ladies' Open, Hamilton.
- 27-28 Lesley Cup Matches, Toronto G. C.
- 30 Women's National, Oakland Hills, Birmingham, Mich.

October

- 17-19 Invitation Fall Tournament, Shawnee.

The Seed Situation

*Agricultural Experiment Station of Rhode Island
State College, Kingston, R. I., U. S. A.*

Mr. Robert E. Power, Editor,
The National Greenkeeper,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Sir: *

I see, from time to time, in the NATIONAL GREENKEEPER, such statements as the following:

"No figures obtainable for New England, but it is stated that the Department of Agriculture had difficulty in obtaining a few pounds" (of bent grass seed) "for experimental purposes." (Extract from information on bent grass seed production, furnished to the Tariff Commission by the U. S. D. A. Quoted in the NATIONAL GREENKEEPER, June 1929, page 8.)

"It" (R. I. bent) "does not grow in Rhode Island in a pure condition any more, and is not commercially cleaned or handled there." (From the article by Fred S. Radway, THE NATIONAL GREENKEEPER, July 1929, page 21.)

Now, as I think you know, my work at the Experiment Station of the Rhode Island State College is largely in connection with the seed production of bent grasses. This research has an economic objective, or in other words it is thought that the production of bent grass seed in Rhode Island may be increased. Provided the results of our experiments support this belief, we expect, in the course of a few years, to be able to offer some advice on the subject to the farming community, etc. I, personally, believe that the work is potentially fruitful, for the following reasons:

- (1) Every species of bent that is used on the golf

courses of this country has flourished in Rhode Island for many years. At the present time most of the fields, and practically every hedgerow and roadside in the state, are purple with the seed.

(2) The demand for R. I. bent, creeping bent, and velvet bent seed, is in excess of the amount now grown in the United States. I believe I am right in saying that the average value of bent seed imported into the country since the war has been in the neighborhood of \$3,000,000. The proposed advance in the tariff rate on imported seed from two to ten cents per pound, should help the home producers appreciably.

(3) The Oregon growers are selling an increasing amount of seed, presumably at a profit. The conditions in Oregon are not, I believe, any more favorable than are those of R. I.

(4) Mr. A. N. Peckham, of Kingston, R. I., has harvested bent grass seed in New England since 1921. There are several hundred acres in this immediate vicinity from which the seed is harvested year after year.

The majority of the local-grown seed is Rhode Island bent and creeping bent. I purchased some pure velvet bent from Mr. Peckham in 1924 in which year he had a few hundred pounds of this seed. Since then, most of the area devoted to velvet bent has become invaded by Rhode Island bent, but one field that I have seen is certainly not less than 90 per cent pure velvet bent. As Mr. Peckham's seed is sold directly to the consumer, it does not enter into the general commercial market, which perhaps accounts for the im-

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FRED A. BURKHARDT
Chairman, Show Committee
405 Caxton Bldg., Cleveland, Ohio

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pression that the amount of Rhode Island-grown bent seed is insignificant.

The point which I wish to bring out is that bent seed can be grown in Rhode Island; that it has been harvested here and sold commercially for a number of years and that, if it does sometimes contain too much chaff to win first prize at a show, the seed has a high percentage of germination, and is true to the varietal names.

I would be grateful if you would give this letter publicity. It seems to be due to Mr. Peckham no less than to us, as I see that he advertises regularly in your magazine.

Very truly yours,
E. S. GARNER, Agrostologist.

Turf Diseases

A special bulletin on turf diseases including brown patch, scald, and snow mold has been prepared and is being distributed by O. M. Scott & Sons Company, Marysville, O. In their introduction they say:

"We feel it timely just now to assemble some of the theories and research relating to common turf diseases and publish them for the conveniences of those who are too busy to give the subject exhaustive personal study. Copies of this report may be had for the asking."

The text is too long to comment in detail, but we suggest to our readers that they write for a copy and check up the statements therein with their own experience.

UNITED STATES GOLF ASSOCIATION
Office of the President
41 East 42nd Street
New York, N. Y.

August 16, 1929

Mr. John Morley, President
National Ass'n of Greenkeepers of America
2248 Selma Avenue,
Youngstown, Ohio

Dear Mr. Morley:

Please excuse my delay in acknowledging receipt of certificate and card of honorary membership in your National Association, which was received here during my absence from the city.

Needless to say, I am very happy to become one of your family. I have always had a high regard for the work which your association continues to do for the betterment of golf, and I hope that if at any time you think I can be of any assistance, that you will not fail to call on me.

Yours sincerely,
FSD:FG (Signed) Findlay S. Douglas

Advice From Canada

Union, Ontario, Canada.

The National Greenkeeper,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear sirs:

Some time ago I sent an article to you by request from the NATIONAL GREENKEEPER soliciting opinions on the brown patch conditions which apparently get worse, and no wonder.

In your New Year's resolution of the January issue I see you are putting up the stop signs on the so-called experts; well, I think it is about time. Another resolution is that you are getting tired of their dope. Well, my opinion is this:

I am surprised at greenkeepers who have spent practically all their lives on the turf ever being bluffed into using such hash on their greens, and especially those to maintain life permanence. All the diseases that are troubling them today come from nothing but the dope that is used and it is simply contaminated soil. That is the trouble and if this kind of treatment continues eventually golfers will have to play the game on the bare ground. This was my resolution to the NATIONAL GREENKEEPER twelve months ago—use less dope.

I read of one greenkeeper having said, "a putting green was like a rich man, it only has so long to live," which I consider nonsense. The older a green the better it should be.

Another greenkeeper said he blamed sulphate of ammonia for the brown patch. Well he was nearer the mark than any of the reasons I have read of yet and another greenkeeper the last but not least tried to lay the trouble on the compost. To this I might say that if the compost was built right and used as it should be, it is the only safe and sane remedy to build and maintain a putting green in perfect and permanent condition and life and keep off the dope.

I trust you will not give this letter the cold shoulder, as some of the articles I have read in the magazine have not been good advice to the young and inexperienced greenkeeper.

(Signed) F. W. CURRIER, Greenkeeper,
St. Thomas Golf & Country Club.

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