

A depth of 6 in. of top soil is desirable on the nursery and it should preferably be a light or medium loam and must be thoroughly cultivated. The texture of heavier soils can be improved by adding sand and peat, etc. Materials of this nature should be evenly spread over the surface and well worked into the existing soil. If the soil is over-acid, liming will be necessary and this should also be worked into the surface soil during final cultivations while invariably a pre-seeding fertilizer will be needed. Actual soil requirements should, however, be determined by tests on representative soil samples from the areas concerned—a service available at the Institute to all greenkeepers of affiliated golf clubs.

### Getting Ready

Initial preparation could start now with further frequent surface cultivations being carried out throughout the growing season with the object of removing undesirable grasses and weeds as they appear. Later on in the summer a fine, evenly firmed and smooth seed bed should be prepared for the late summer sowing. Preparation of this nature is best done by alternate heeling and raking. Any recommended fertilizer should be applied and raked into the prepared seed bed some 7-10 days before sowing takes place using a seeds mixture comprising

- 8 parts American Chewings' fescue (Grade 1)
- 2 parts American browntop bent (Grade 1)

A sowing rate of 1 oz. per sq. yd. should produce a turf of good texture for golf greens providing the seed bed has been properly prepared.

During the early days of establishment it is important that the nursery be watered when necessary and careful hand weeding will be required to remove all undesirable weed grasses and perennial weeds as they appear. Initially topping only should be done but as the new grass thickens up the height of cut can be gradually reduced to  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. at which height the nursery should be maintained until the following season. From then onwards further gradual reductions can be made to something like  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. at which level frequent cutting should then be practised.

Thereafter, the nursery should be maintained on similar lines to the greens in play at all times, i.e. regular cutting, occasional scarification, adequate application of fertilizer along with weed, pest and disease control as necessary. Continuity of turf supply should be safeguarded by re-preparation of bare ground and re-sowing as the turf is used. When renovation is necessary it should be remembered that turf gives an immediate grass cover. Be prepared for any eventuality and start work on preparing a turf nursery now.

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