

USA in 1954 which makes it one of the oldest cultivars on the market.

Because there is only one type of grass on a creeping bent grass green it has a very uniform texture, albeit coarser than the finer fescues and browntop bents. Different forms of creeping bent in the green can cause segregation and a patchy appearance.

With access to a particularly good strain of creeping bent grass one could create a green vegetatively, using pieces of stolon as cuttings which would rapidly fill in to make a full grass cover. A number of vegetatively propagated strains of creeping bent were selected in the USA in the first half of this century to enable greens to be made in this way. In the UK this technique was restricted to the infamous "Emerald Velvet" bent grass which was available by mail order briefly about thirty years ago, but is still referred to in the amateur gardening textbooks as a way of making a new lawn.

As American golf course designers have had a greater impact on European golf they have brought with them the grasses they know best. These have begun to increase in prominence over the grasses traditionally used for golf in mainland Europe, which had originally been introduced as a result of British influence. Thus creeping bentgrass is likely to become more common in Europe.

In Southern Europe, North Africa and other sub-tropical and tropical areas the most usual grass for golf greens is Bermuda grass (*Cynodon* spp). Like creeping bent it can be propagated by

seed or vegetatively, the better types being established from sprigs and sold as sprigs or turf.

As more golf clubs are built around the Mediterranean the improved Hybrid Bermuda grasses, originally bred in Georgia, USA have been introduced and are now widely used in the area. One drawback is that they become brown and dormant in temperatures below about 10 degrees centigrade.

As with greens there is a choice of grasses suitable for use on tees in the UK. Traditionally a mixture of red fescue and browntop bent has been used, similar to that on the greens. To add resilience to the sward smooth-stalked meadow grass may be added. A radical departure from this is the use of a perennial ryegrass turf on the tee. Forgetting the tradition of the game and looking objectively at the required characteristics of a tee, many people find that the best of the modern, fine-leaved ryegrasses provide a combination of features which are beneficial on the tee, particularly when used with a rhizomatous grass such as creeping red fescue which can help repair divots. A number of the top clubs are trying this kind of seed mixture, particularly on par 3 tees.

On North European 'American - style' courses the tees tend to be creeping bent or smooth-stalked meadow grass, both of which are also able to repair damage. Between the latitudes of 35 degrees N to 35 degrees S, Bermuda grass is more appropriate because of its heat tolerance.

Whether turfing or seeding, the results depend on the initial preparation and the standard of greenkeeping af-

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His main responsibility at Rolawn is the development and sales of turf for the professional sporting market and overseeing the quality control processes. He also provides technical advice for customers and staff and was responsible for introducing the concept of washed turf to the UK.

Robert is also much in demand as a lecturer on sports turf and lawn care. He has published scientific papers on turf grasses, and numerous articles on turf management for specialist journals and features on lawns for the general public.

ter establishment, as much as the grasses used, the temperature and availability of water. Choosing the most appropriate material is the key to success.

FROM THE FAIRWAY

Dear Sir,

Whilst reading the very interesting March issue of 'the Golf Course' I was surprised to read under Topical Tips your recommendations in response to the greenkeepers question about the Certificate of Competence. The advice you gave was inaccurate.

I will work through it step by step.

It is wrong to refer to the age of 25, as that was the starting age and will increase by one year each year.

1. Those born before 31 December 1964 and are spraying on their own or their

employers land (owned or rented) do not require a Certificate of Competence and do not need to be supervised.

2. Those born after 1 January 1965 require a Certificate of Competence - unless they are being supervised by a certificate holder.

3. Those born before 31 December 1964 may not unless certificated supervise an operator who was born after 1 January 1965.

4. All contractors whatever their date of birth must be certified. A contractor is an operator paid or unpaid who is applying

pesticide to land which is not owned or rented by themselves or their employer.

There is so much confusion about the legislation that I hope you will forgive me for attempting to put the record straight.

G. Keith McKee

**European Technical Manager
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Editors Note:

Your guidance is much appreciated. The legislation is complicated and piecemeal, but in time all greenkeepers will be required to undertake training regardless of age. There is no substitute for sound knowledge and skills.