ing sites for the seed, and will not slake or crust readily.

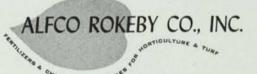
Even after the course is in operation, threadbare turf can be strengthened by bolster seeding without soil cultivation. Bolster seeding is usually suggested for autumn. But winter or early spring seedings find the seed working down nicely into frost pits as the soil freezes and thaws. The implanted seed is ready to sprout when warm weather comes. Seed is relatively so inexpensive compared to other demands for maintaining a golf course, that bolster seeding insurance makes sense. Might as well have candidate grass seeds in the soil; otherwise weeds will almost surely fill the voids! If the equipment is good enough to achieve so light a seeding, 20 pounds to the acre of a Highland bentgrass blend provide a good seed reserve.

Vertical mowing and thatch removal are being increasingly practiced on the well-kept golf course. Bolster seeding in conjunction with such practices makes good sense, too. Vertical mowing and aerification scratch the soil surface, letting seed reach soil rather than remain perched atop the thatch where it cannot sprout. One might even regard bolster seeding as a taken-for-granted complement to seasonal fairway de-thatching.

There are no better grass experts in the country than golf course superintendents, for whom success with grass spells livelihood. I'm not suggesting that successful practices be abandoned. But it does seem time for someone to say a kind word in behalf of bentgrass blends for the fairway, in case some of the lawn advisories have been misinterpreted.

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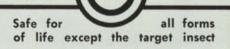
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