

or something of the sort which is very inexpensive. In all probability, some may say this is not enough compensation for the boys. However, we keep two boys on the bench and the rest are allowed to hunt balls and a good caddy will usually bring in from twenty to twenty-five balls when not otherwise employed in caddying.

"When a caddy violates any of the rules he is sternly reprov'd and given a little time off to think the matter over and if the offense is too serious is prohibited from ever coming on the course again. We have had only about four cases of this kind during the three years of operation of Alderbrook.

"I would say that 60 per cent of our visitors are from the better clubs and play Fulname marked balls. We take these balls from the caddies the same as from our local people and mail them to the owners taking the owner's name and address from our register. We lose the caddy fee and postage on these return balls and charge the same to advertising."

Letters received from visitors who have lost balls returned to them from Alderbrook and Westmont give strong evidence that the mailing of these balls is great advertising.

The marked ball matter is so stressed by Smith on a basis of honest sportsman-

ship and an unyielding insistence that the marked ball continues to be the property of its rightful owner, even if someone else did find it, that a near-Arcadian status in this respect prevails at the Smith courses.

## Turf Nursery Operating Methods That Pay

By HIRAM F. GODWIN

Greenkeeper, Redford, (Mich.) Country Club

*Digest of address at Greenkeepers' National Convention.*

Nurseries might be classed as two kinds, one for growing sod or stolons of some particular strain which you have decided on investigation is the one you wish to use. I would suggest putting this on as true a piece of land and free of stones as you can; it will enable you to do a more even job of sod lifting. An experimental nursery can properly be on quite rolling ground, so that it will have slopes at least equal to your greens, as some strains of bent apparently give a true surface when flat but on rolls or slopes they have a tendency to form a nap or grain.

My early trial plats taught me a few things about preparing ground for a nur-

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sery. If a well worked piece of ground is not available, do not try to plow and work under old sod; it is surprising how persistent and almost impossible to weed out are the rootstocks of bluegrass, red top, etc., when you are watering and fertilizing a nursery as it should be. Taking old sod off to the depth of two inches will eliminate the bulk of grass roots and weeds. It is not necessary to work the soil up; in fact, I think that leaving the soil firm is better.

It is preferable to start a nursery in the fall. Then by the following fall you are sure of plenty of stolons; but good results are obtainable from spring planting.

Make straight trenches about an inch or two deep. In fall planting, three feet apart; in the spring, two feet. String your stolons along this trench and cover with soil scraped from trench; or, if you want to hurry the growth, cover with compost.

### Watering Practice

Right here, it might be well to speak a word of caution about allowing stolons to dry out. Some drying does not necessarily kill, but it slows up germination and affects the vitality materially. Stolons that are kept fresh hardly stop growing; it

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seems as though the leaves keep right on developing, but on stolons where the leaves are badly wilted or dried, the nodes are slow to root and send out new shoots. It is necessary to plant stolons near the surface and to keep them moist; during hot, dry weather the surface of ground must be kept wet. Anyone who has tried this knows that it is not so easy to do, as to prevent washing, only a small amount of water can be put on at a time.

After nodes root, the grass is more able to take care of itself. If the rooting period is long drawn out, there is just that much more chance for an accident and weeds have a better chance to get started. As soon as rows show, begin to cultivate; use care not to chop off or cover up ends of runners, as it checks the growth.

Another thing that checks growth very materially is allowing seed heads to form. This can best be prevented by using plenty of water and fertilizer. Grass that is forced shows very little tendency to seed. While hoeing or weeding, eliminate any grass that shows a variation from type you have selected; difference of growth shows up readily in rows. If you do not use your nursery rows for stolons the first fall or following spring, I think it pays

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to turn them into a sod bed by mowing and topdressing, and start new rows for stolons.

A stolon nursery need not be over one-fifth the area you wish to plant with stolons. Usually, after the first year, when sod has formed, some clover, bluegrass and other weeds work in; these weeds, along with the bunchy way sod comes up, require more weeding and top-dressing to produce a good turf than where year old nursery stolons are used.

Before starting any nursery be sure that you can give it regular care. Sod from a neglected nursery is not desirable for a green and experimental plat would give you no real information. Nurseries can be useful or only a matter of expense. Do not try to have a sod bed so large that it would be three or four years before you could use it. Have just about what you will use in a year; it saves a good deal in the cost of mowing, weeding, etc. Keep renewing your nursery where sod has been removed; you will find that after the first crop of sod, the successive plantings are much more free of weeds. Sod is formed quicker and at less expense by broadcast-ing stolons.

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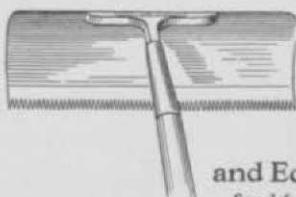
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### Use of Sod

On an established course, I should always rely on a sod nursery for the material to replace a green. A few years ago I took the mixed sod off of nine greens and replanted by the stolon method. Although I did not begin the work until after September 15th I had them playing on better greens than the old ones by the following May 30th; there was plenty of complaint about being off the regular greens. My greens chairman and his committee certainly stood behind me, but I knew from occasional anxious inquiries as to how the greens were coming that they were recipients of complaints that I never heard about.

Since then I have found that I could grow sod, transfer it to the greens during the latter part of November or the first part of December, and the players generally are not inconvenienced. Some sod, of the same strain as the greens, comes in very handy for patching. Early last spring some vandals; that is, caddies not busy caddying, found a can of oil which they poured on a portion of a green and then set fire to it. On discovery, I immediately had the oiled patches replaced with nur-

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sery sod and after two weeks of growing weather you could not tell where the patches were. Knowing that he can replace destroyed turf immediately relieves a greenkeeper of just that much worry.

Use sod for plugging where large weed patches are removed; although with a good strain of bent on a green, I do not think large patches should be allowed to form. One thing I would not attempt to do; that is, to change the character of turf on a green by plugging with sod.

### Here Nursery Pays

A few years ago I heard a greenkeeper say that they had several acres of "Washington" bent sod that they would not use because it turned brown over winter. I did not know what kind of turf he had on his greens; I doubt very much if it was as fine putting and as easily taken care of as the "Washington" would have been.

Now, there was an expense that could have been avoided by the use of an experimental nursery, as a plat 10 feet by 10 feet would have shown that club the characteristics of "Washington" bent.

For testing strains, I should plant in rows. One piece of sod I received from Washington, supposedly of a particular strain, showed on being planted in a row that it was composed of at least five distinct strains.

A nursery is just the place to try out that chemical that you have been told will kill chickweed and not hurt the grass, or that acid that clover doesn't like. If you think that watering in the sunlight hurts the grass and night watering is better, try the two ways on different spots in the nursery.

I would say that if you have never handled bent, it would pay you to try some experimental plats for a couple of years to find out which strain you like and how to take care of it; while a sod bed, properly cared for, offers a means to change permanent greens over into the finest kind of turf, at no inconvenience to the players.

## Nitrogen in the Compost Pile

By GUY C. WEST

Supt., Fall River C. C., Fall River, Mass.

**T**HE vast amount of compost used on the average golf course today makes it imperative that all compost shall be prepared as efficiently as possible. The nitrogen in the compost pile is very important, and large quantities of it may easily be lost. These facts are often lost sight of by the average builder and user of compost.