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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 plot 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 plots 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.

Composting produces a concentrated fertilizing material in convenient form for use on the golf course, much more easily handled than fresh manure. The processes which take place in a compost pile are fermentative in nature, and are produced by bacteria. The regulation of these processes and the conservation of the products formed are essential to the economical use of the process.

During the process of fermentation, ammonia is formed, and this is lost easily. Thus the compost pile should be kept wet while fermentation is taking place, as this ammonia is soluble in water. To prevent loss of this through drainage, it is essential that the material used with the manure should be a good absorbent. Many materials are used for this purpose: straw, loam, sod, muck, peat, etc. Of these, peat is the best, absorbing both liquids and gases. It is also a powerful deodorizer, and hence garbage, etc., may be added to the compost, if peat is used, without danger of creating a nuisance. In addition, peat added to a compost pile furnishes a large amount of nitrogen.

While in the raw state the nitrogen compounds in peat are quite unavailable for plant use: the fermentative processes in the compost pile convert a large proportion of them into readily soluble form.

If the source of the manure used can be controlled, a further saving of nitrogen can probably be effected. Where the manure used comes from club stables, the loss of nitrogen can be easily prevented. Where it is bought fresh, it can be treated at once to prevent loss of nitrogen.

The New York Agricultural Experiment Station in a series of experiments have shown that the loss of ammonia from manure may be prevented by adding acid phosphate, gypsum, or peat. Their use, however, does not mean necessarily that they absorb the ammonia, but may mean

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that they conserve the ammonia by suppressing the organisms which ordinarily cause its volatilization.

Here again then is a use of peat. Great quantities of this substance are found in many sections of the country. Any club which has available a cheap source of supply can use it to advantage for mixing with manure as a preservative wherever possible, and for mixing in compost for use as absorbent and deodorizer, and as a further source of nitrogen.

#### Testing Acidity

One often wishes to know easily whether the compost used is acid or alkaline. The

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MAY, 1928

## Editorial Contents

Business Tourist Probes Into Golf Business .....	9	Buffalo Grass Fairways Look Promising .....	42
"Help Yourself" Is Successful Pro's Tip .....	12	Simple Time-Card Keeps Check on Budget .....	44
Keeping at It Gives School Thrifty Golf .....	14	Save Prize Trees from Pine Beetle ..	45
Beach Grove Builds for 12-Month Use .....	16	Pro Makes Club Pride and Publicity ..	49
Keeping Check on Course Costs by Proved System .....	19	"If I Were a Pro," by a member .....	51
Manager's Idea on "One Boss" .....	24	How Soil Conditions Affect Earthworms at Greens .....	53
Talking It Over .....	28	How Olympia Handles Its Caddies ..	58
Anaconda's Method Masters Sand Green Problem .....	30	Proper Nitrate of Soda Use in Greenkeeping .....	59
Pro's Selling Problem No Monopoly ..	32	How and Why Right Ball-Marker Pays .....	62
Movies Big Aid in Golf Instruction ..	34	Turf Nursery Operations That Pay ..	65
		Nitrogen in the Compost Pile .....	68

For Index to Advertisements see page 72.

Ontario Experiment Station has suggested a simple test for acidity in black soils which can be used for compost. Place a teaspoonful of compost in each of two glasses, fill both with water, place in one a tablespoonful of liquid ammonia. Stir each glass thoroughly with a separate spoon. After standing for an hour, if the water which contains the ammonia is colored quite dark, and the other settles clear, then the soil is acid.

As the nitrogen present in the compost pile is the most important element, and as it may be easily lost in quantity, care should be taken to prevent this loss. A preservative for fresh manure, keeping the compost pile wet while the fermentative processes are taking place, and the addition of absorbents when building the compost, all mean efficiency, and prevention of loss. Care taken in preparing the compost pile will mean more nitrogen in the compost.

### Westbury Gives Its Pro Business Boost

"OLD Westbury News," a mimeographed one sheet weekly house-organ of the Westbury Country club on Long Island, is a first class example

of a club news sheet that is lively helpful and progressive. Clever sketches illustrate each issue. One of the issues in late April devoted the left-hand column of the first and only page to some publicity for Bill Noon, the club's pro. The yarn follows because it is the sort of copy that a club can put out to give its pro a good "break" in his sales work.

The story appears under the head: **WESTBURY'S "PRO" HAS COMPLETE LINE OF GOLF MATERIALS AT STANDARD PRICES—SEE THEM.**

The copy reads:

*The only way a storekeeper can keep a complete line of goods is to have a call for those goods.*

*Our "Pro Shop" is a store, a golf store, and our "Pro" the storekeeper, "Bill Noon," wants to keep on hand everything that you are likely to want.*

*But he can't afford to stock up with golf materials unless he tinkles the cash register occasionally.*

*"Bill" will treat you right and sell you right. He has everything from matched clubs to garter tee garages.*

*One of the first customers that strolled into Bill Noon's emporium after his new stock arrived, was President Vincent X. McGuire.*