

AUTHORITY TELLS OF ASTORIA BENT

Chicago, Ill.—The creeping bent strain known as Astoria, due to the seed being harvested in the vicinity of Astoria, Ore., has made its initial appearance in this section on the greens of the new Rob Roy Country, to which it was supplied by George A. Davis, Inc. The course was built by Edward B. Dearie, Jr. The seed was sowed last fall, and came through the winter well. It had no water piped to it until spring.

Of this bent, G. R. Hyslop, head of the Farm Crops division of the Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station at Corvallis, Ore., says:

"I had seen this Bent on the lower land, and also how it encroached on other plants in upland pastures, and as it was a creeper and fine, dense and green, began mentioning it as a seed crop to seedsmen and others.

"In 1926 Engbretson Brothers of Astoria, Ore., asked for certification, and harvested about 30 to 35 acres. I certified it as Creeping Bent, and tried to call it *Agrostis stolonifera*, and the botanists and seed analysts all called it Rhode Island Bent (*Agrostis vulgaris*), which it closely resembles in head and seed characteristics. I knew it was a true creeper, and stuck to 'Creeping Bent,' and let the scientific name go for the time.

"In the summer, 1927, Dr. Helen M. Gilkey, of the Oregon Agricultural College Department of Botany, studied the plants in the fields and reached the conclusion that it was a creeper, and not a Rhode Island Bent. During that summer Dr. A. S. Hitchcock, the real grass authority in America, examined Dr. Gilkey's specimens and pronounced them a new variety of Creeping Bent grass of similar botanical rank to Seaside Bent. He classified them as New Astoria Creeping Bent—*Agrostis stolonifera Astoriana*.

"So that is the history to date.

Plant Characteristics

"Now about the plant characteristics:

"Creeping Habit—The New Astoria Bent is also a vigorous stoloniferous creeper, but does not creep so rapidly. It also spreads underground by root stalks or rhizomes, making a deep, reinforced sod. The leaves of this Bent in a dense sod are somewhat upright, and I have observed no tendency for runners to come out on top of the turf.

"Texture—Both grasses are fine Bents. Seaside Bent is slightly wider leaved, and the internodes on rapidly creeping isolated plants are longer than those of the New Astoria Bent. This difference is much less pronounced where stands are dense, as in lawn or green.

"Both Bents are fine Bents, with the Astoria Bent somewhat the finer of the



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two bent grasses under consideration.

"Color—Both are a beautiful green color, with the Astoria Bent a somewhat darker shade.

"Seed Quality—Both lots are harvested from native stands. Seaside Bent is remarkably pure because it is harvested from wet overflow lands where other Bents fail to survive.

"The 'Astoria Bent' seems to get its remarkable freedom from mixture because of its resistance to wet, cold, sour soil conditions on uplands, and to its ability to crowd out and outlive other grasses. It equals the Seaside Bent in purity, and probably exceeds it in test weight. Down in low, wet sloughs in the Astoria section we cannot certify except as American mixed Bent because of the presence of Seaside Bent with the 'Astoria Bent.'

"Hardiness—Both Bents seem hardy and suited to sour soil conditions. Both grow on a wide range of soils."

TWO ANNOUNCE INTERNATIONAL AS WEST COAST AGENTS

Los Angeles, Calif.—Jack Schaefer, general manager of International Agencies, announces their appointment as Western sales representative for the York Street Flax Thread Company's line of imported wrapping or pitched thread.

The Bronson Golf Shoe Company also has appointed the International Agencies

Western sales representatives for their line of golf shoes and sport shoes.

DICKEY GETS OUT NEW DRAINAGE BOOK

Kansas City, Mo.—An interesting book on drainage for golf courses, other playfields and airports has been issued recently by the W. S. Dickey Clay Mfg. Co. It has much helpful drainage data and considerable testimony from golf course officials as to the value of proper drainage.

ANNOUNCE GOLF CLUB HOUSE PLANNING BOOK

Wm. Helburn, Inc., 15 East 55th, will publish, in September, "Golf and Country Clubs," by Clifford Charles Wendhack. The advance subscription price is \$15. Judging from GOLFDOM'S correspondence, there is considerable need for such a book, as those who constitute the building committees of golf clubs contemplating new clubhouses hitherto have had no such a volume to help them or their architects.

Mr. Wendhack is a specialist in country clubhouse architecture, and has shown command of this subject not only in the clubhouses he has designed, but in many excellent articles he has written in "Golf Illustrated." The forthcoming volume will carry 157 illustrations of the country clubhouse work of prominent architects.

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