

TELL SUCCESSFUL METHODS OF Bermuda Grass Care

—WATERING SCHEDULE IS IMPORTANT

BERMUDA grass is the most commonly employed turf for Southern golf courses, and it is surprising, in view of its universal use, that so little has been published on the technique of cultivating and maintaining this grass. Accordingly, when GOLFDOM recently received an inquiry on how Bermuda grass greens should be built and maintained, it was necessary to appeal to a number of Southern greenkeepers for their methods.

Specifically, GOLFDOM'S correspondent asked for information on the following items:

1. *When should Bermuda grass be sowed, and when fertilized?*
2. *What sort of top-dressing should be used, and how often should it be spread on the green?*
3. *Should Bermuda grass greens be watered, or will the matting form a good enough cushion to hold the ball?*
4. *Does it harm the greens to play on them all year?*
5. *Will a filler of bluegrass or fescue make the greens less jumpy for putted balls?*

GOLFDOM would like to hear from greenkeepers on the general subject of Bermuda grass greens and will welcome any advice its readers can contribute.

H. C. Hackbarth, at the Country Club of Little Rock (Ark.), in answering the first question above, says he sows Bermuda seed in the spring. He explains that "Bermuda is a tropical grass and the seed does not germinate until the ground becomes warm. This can best be judged by the water coming from hydrants, which if when drawn has no decided chill, indicates that the earth has warmed up to a certain extent. I have found the most suitable time in this section for sowing Bermuda to be between April 15 and May 10. The best chemical fertilizer to be used as a stimulant is composed of 75 per cent sulphate of ammonia and 25 per cent acid phosphate—this to be applied at the rate of about 35 lbs. on a green 60x60 in area."

Hackbarth's topdressing is composed of

2 parts loam or top-soil and 1 part sharp sand. He sows it at the beginning of the growing season and repeats each six weeks until the end of the playing period. The top-soil furnishes the necessary plant food and the sand tends to aerate the soil.

"Watering," says Hackbarth, "should be done regularly in order to keep greens moist. This should be done after sundown during the dry season—each green to be watered thoroughly every third night. A thorough watering at regular intervals is much better than watering slightly each night." The greens of the Little Rock Country Club are used practically the year round. When the Bermuda becomes dormant in the fall, the fronts of the greens are sowed in winter grass, equal parts of Redtop and Kentucky bluegrass at the rate of approximately 30 lbs. to a 60x60 green. Temporary greens are used only when heavy frost renders the regular greens too soft.

Topdressing is suggested as the solution to the irregular putting surface to which Bermuda greens tend.

George S. Turpie, pro-greenkeeper, at the Audubon Golf Club (New Orleans) has also favored GOLFDOM with a description of his Bermuda technique. His answers are the same as those furnished by Hackbarth, with the exception that Turpie uses 2 parts of rotten cow manure and 1 part river sand as the ingredients of his topdressing.

Chicago, Ill.—Lee B. Vastine, 175 W. Jackson Blvd., was elected president of the Chicago Daily Fee Golf association, an organization of 14 of the privately owned pay-as-you-play courses in the Chicago district. Good business for the year was reported with about the only prospect of misery in sight being the local tax situation.

TURF grasses are naturally lovers of temperature and cool climate, and it is a fact not generally recognized that the farther north one travels, the finer the wild grasses become in texture.