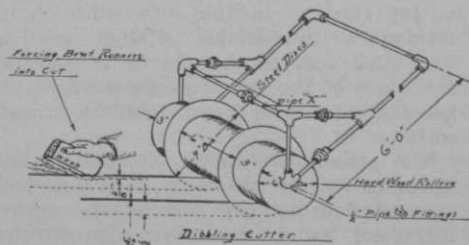


## "Dibbler" Plants Stolons Without Loss of Plan

By F. C. GROOS\*

AFTER extended experimentation in the way of laying Washington bent runners into cuts made into the soil (dibbling) among other grasses, it has been found that the bent not only grows, but rapidly overcomes and displaces both red top and blue grass, as well as *poa annua* and *poa trivialis*.

In pursuance of this idea, it was decided to dibble nine of our greens, inasmuch as this could be done with very little in-



Two 5-in. rollers to be placed on pipe "X" to facilitate handling.

terference with play on the course, since cuts immediately were top-dressed and rolled. All this with a labor cost of the wages of two men from three to five days—the number varying with the size of the green.

The results obtained were most gratifying, for in little more than thirty days from the time of dibbling, eleven individual bent plants were present in a four-inch plug cut from one of the greens. The plants had grown not only to the surface but had spread from one to one and one-half inches on both sides of the original incision.

In from three to six months a distinctly perceptible movement could be seen in the greens; the bent had rapidly filled in and crowded out the upright grasses. In less than a year our greens were all better than 75 per cent bent, while today they

\*Courtesy Pacific Greenkeeper.



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are as pure as any greens developed by either sodding or planting stolons. Added to this, not a green was out of play for a single day!

It may be stated here that the greens having the poorest original stand of grasses were the first to become covered with bent as they presented the least opposition.

In order to facilitate this work we made a dibbling cutter as shown in the accompanying sketch. This device made the cutting easy and accurately spaced by running one cutter in the cut made on the former trip. Only three cuts were made at one time so as to enable the workmen to lay runners in the cuts while maintaining a comfortable sitting position. This also reduces the chance of marring the edges of the cut turf, edges which are necessary for speed and neatness in turf work.

The process of forcing the runners into the cuts was to use a piece of four-inch grooved flooring, one edge of the groove being cut away, the other edge covered with tin to prevent wearing. The runners were inserted into the cuts with one hand while the piece of flooring in the other hand forced the grass down to the required depth—about three-eighths of an inch. After six cuts were planted, they immediately were top-dressed and rolled and watered so as to prevent both cuts and runners from drying out. Inasmuch as grass cannot be raised from hay, all cuttings were kept in a moistened sack until planting. This insured the planting of fresh live runners.

After undergoing this treatment, greens should not be allowed to get dry for at least ten days. In this time they should be re-top-dressed if necessary.

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