

## Planting and Maintenance Tips that Assure Results and Thrift

By HUGH C. MOORE

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**V**ERY SOON the golf clubs in the South will be putting in their winter greens and there will be many mistakes made in doing so. Most club budgets are cut down to the bottom. Care should be taken to get full germination, as most clubs will not be able to plant the second time.

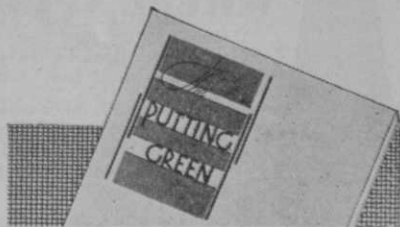
First, I would not sow too soon, especially south of the Carolinas, as young rye, redtop, and Kentucky bluegrass cannot stand hot weather. Last winter many clubs lost their winter grass around Christmas on account of the extreme hot weather.

In planting winter grass it does not require much skill, but it does require some judgment. I do not believe in raking Bermuda grass for in doing so you loosen your smooth putting surface, which will take some time to get back. First take a heavy steel mat, drag it across your greens and then cut your greens the other way. Spike both ways, for in doing this you will make a bed for your seed. Sow your seed with a seeder; I don't believe it can be done evenly by hand. Topdress as little as possible. I have found that most trouble comes from too heavy topdressing. This also delays germination and sometimes causes a scald. Use a little sulphate in topdressing, about 20 lbs. to a green of 5,000 to 8,000 sq. ft. That is done to give it a start and to stimulate the growth, especially if the weather is cold. I do not believe in fertilizing until the greens are 4 to 5 weeks old; that is where many greens are lost. Start fertilizing with just enough to keep the color and necessary growth. A very good fertilizer is part milorganite with a little sulphur; the amount depends on the condition of your greens.

Watering should be done by hand, if

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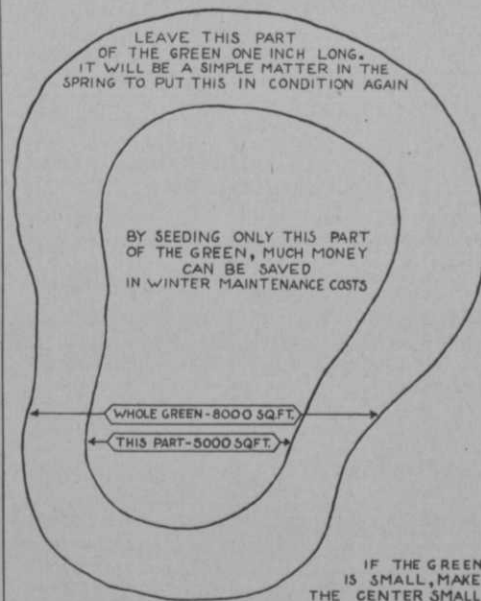
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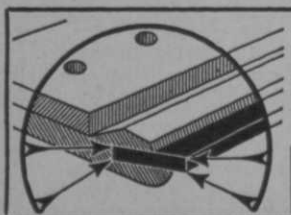
possible, for a week after planting. Water just enough to keep the greens moist. Your mower should be very sharp, especially for the first few cuttings. If not, you will pull up most of the grass. This has been done many times.

As for the clubs that can't purchase the proper amount of seed, why not take, we



will say, a green of 8,000 sq. ft., and plant the center of it, perhaps an area of 4,000 or 5,000 sq. ft., and so on down, according to the size of your green. This will still give you a good putting surface and you have a full green to shoot at, keeping the balance of your green cut, the same as you did in the summer.

Accompanying is a drawing of a green. The inside line covers the area which I would sow if I was up against it for seed and the greens were large.



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