



Six strains of bent are planted side by side in this green on the Penn State course. See diagram next page.

TO TEST TURF UNDER FIRE

By H. B. MUSSER

DID you every try to photograph the surface detail of a green? If you have, you know what a heartbreaking job it is. We have tried it in about every way possible. We've taken shots when the brilliant sunshine of the early morning was reflected back sharply from every grass blade. We've mugged it when the rays of late afternoon went slanting off to the eastward. We've sneaked up on it on cloudy days when we thought perhaps variations in the grass texture and density might register.

Perhaps you get the idea. We wanted a picture of that green pretty bad. Well, the best we have been able to do to date is the accompanying photograph. If you look closely you will see the green, but very little of the detail we wanted to show.

This green is our first effort at the Pennsylvania Experiment Station to set up a piece of turf testing experimental work under actual playing conditions. We have long had a feeling that the only sure proof of the pudding was to make experimental turf companions under actual playing conditions.

Budget troubles of one sort or another always interfered with the plans for construction of such a green. Finally, last fall, with Bob Rutherford, coach of the college golf team and general factotum in affairs golfing at Penn State, contributing his experience in design and with very material financial aid from the De-

partment of Grounds and Buildings, the green was built.

The college golf course on which it is located is an 18-hole layout and gets from 200 to 300 rounds of golf every day. The play is of a type that—well, it makes one suspect that a good many early golfing educations have been sadly neglected. At least there is no question about the severity of the “wear” on the turf. This is particularly true of the tenth hole where the green was built. It is a one-shot 5 or 6 iron layout and should get a lot of rough treatment. The original green on this hole will be kept in condition to take care of play while records are being taken or other work done on the new one.

Special Care Taken to Make Soil Uniform

The green has an area of approximately 6,000 sq. ft. and is roughly circular in outline. There are no playing surface contours and just enough slope is provided to insure satisfactory run-off. Our chief concern was to provide a playing surface that would be uniform throughout in con-

struction. At the same time, it was necessary to provide for the uniformity of the soil and see that all lime, fertilizer and other treatments were evenly and thoroughly mixed. We believe the construction is such that any differences in performance that may develop among the various grasses tested will be due to the grasses themselves and not to serious variations in growing conditions.

The first job we are asking the green to do is to function as a proving ground for our creeping bent selections that have given the best account of themselves during the last five year period in the test plots. Three of these were planted last fall along with the Washington and Metropolitan strains and a seeded area of bona fide South German mixed bent.

The accompanying diagram shows the layout. Each strain is planted in a wedge

particular hard beating at one time will get a good "break" at another.

By checking frequently on turf condition and keeping a detailed record of maintenance operations necessary to keep each strain in the best possible condition we should get a good picture of their performance. If no trouble develops the green will be ready to open for play in late May or early June and we hope to have some very interesting figures by the end of the 1937 season.

Here's Dope on New Jersey and Iowa Greens Short Courses

UNDER direction of Dr. Howard B. Sprague, the ninth annual one-week course in Turf Management will be held February 15-20 at Rutgers College, College of Agriculture, New Brunswick, N. J. The course, designed to acquaint greenkeepers and others with the principles underlying the successful establishment and management of turf, will consist of lectures and discussions supplemented by laboratory demonstrations.

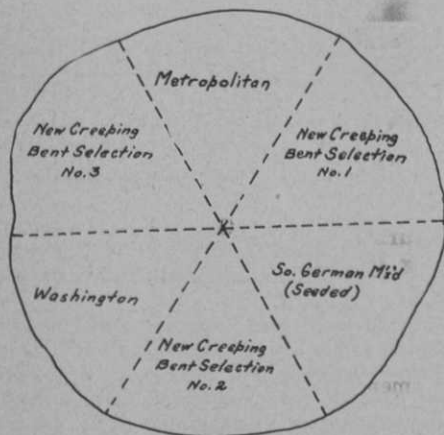
Any resident of the U. S. over 17 years of age is eligible for the course, for which the only charges are \$5.00 for registration and \$1.00 for outlines of lectures. Registration will be held Monday a. m., February 15. The course will be limited to 60 persons. F. G. Helyar, director of resident instruction, will accept applications.

Among the subjects to be covered are: soil types, drainage, soil and plant chemistry, fertilizers, soil acidity, forms of lime, micro-organisms, compost, seed testing, insects, weeds, turf diseases, renovating poor turf, and watering.

ANNUAL two-day Greenkeeper's Short Course is announced for Iowa State College, Ames, on March 1 and 2. Program details have not yet been released by Prof. V. T. Stoutemyer and other members of the college staff, but full measure of instructive and interesting material will be provided.

A fee of one dollar covers all costs to the Short Course program, living expenses excepted.

Park board members, golf course committeemen, golf pros and all others interested in the various phases of greenkeeping are welcome to attend the sessions. For further details, either Prof. Stoutemyer at Ames or C. G. Yarn, secy. of the Iowa Greenkeepers Assn., Rte. 4, Des Moines, should be written.



Each of the six bent strains covers an equal segment of the green.

shaped area of approximately 1,000 sq. ft. The areas are large enough so that a strain can be handled as a unit and the type of care given to it which preliminary trials in our test plots indicate as best adapted for it.

To give each grass an equal chance to show what it can do, we will keep exact records of the number of rounds each day and rotate the cup to distribute the play uniformly on all of them. Of course, there will be times when weather conditions will be more severe than at others. The strain carrying the cup at such times will get more than its share of trouble. We think, however, that in a full season such errors will largely take care of themselves. In other words, by changing the cup frequently a strain that may take a