

of red top to fungus diseases. We have tried both bluegrass and Seaside bent on an experimental plot as a substitute for rye grass, but found neither satisfactory under our conditions.

It is practically impossible, as you all know, to follow any common practice or set rule in changing over from rye grass to Bermuda grass in the spring for so much depends upon weather conditions and observation of the condition of both the Bermuda grass and rye grass in the greens at the time.

Then too, no two courses can be handled quite the same due to variable soil and climatic conditions and the intensity of the Spring play on the particular course. For instance—at Sea Island we try to hold our rye grass in the greens pretty well through May because we want our greens in the best possible conditions for our heavy Spring season play and we often still have some rye grass in the greens well into June.

However, I know that on many courses it may be advisable to encourage the dying out of the rye grass sooner than this. This can usually be accomplished by heavily fertilizing with ammonium sulphate or ammonium nitrate (8 to 10 lbs. to the 1,000 sq. ft.) and watering thoroughly each day thereafter for a week or so and then if the weather man cooperates, let the greens dry out for a few days to encourage dying out of the rye grass.

Then the greens may be spiked and top-dressed and seeded with Hulled Bermuda grass to encourage as quick growth as possible of the Bermuda. However, we have not found this method very practical at Sea Island because we find that we have too many bare spots in the greens where the Bermuda has not filled in to take the place of the rye, and we prefer to let the rye go out more gradually for this reason. Even then we may get a few thin spots on some greens in late May or early June, but under our conditions this is usually not serious.

We usually apply 5 to 10 lbs. of hulled Bermuda grass seed per green along with the April or May topdressing. The seedling Bermuda grass is finer textured for the first season or two but sometimes doesn't have much chance of competing with the established Bermuda stolons.

I believe a great deal of the trouble experienced in the change-over of rye grass to Bermuda grass, at least in our section, may be caused by poor drainage and poor aeration and unfavorable physical conditions of the soil. If the soil in the greens is well drained and aerated and has a well balanced proportion of humus and sharp sand, the Bermuda will naturally be deeper rooted and I think it might be said that the deeper rooted the Bermuda grass, the less

trouble will be experienced in the change-over as well as, of course, throughout the season. With deep rooted grass, the change-over should normally be gradual enough to eliminate any serious bareness at any time.

I believe many courses which have resorted to such practices as seeding only half of the greens areas, or using two sets of greens, might have avoided this by improving the drainage and physical condition of the soil, along with intelligent handling of watering, fertilizing and top-dressing.

Perhaps some day Dr. Burton, Dr. Grau or Dr. Noer will come up with a grass that will answer the southeastern greenkeepers' prayer, that is a suitable textured grass which will grow for 12 months in the year instead of 6 or 8; but, until that time, we will just have to worry along with summer grasses and winter grasses.

COURSE CONDITION TIED-UP WITH PRO SHOP SALES

Bob Munk, pro-gkpr. at the Jacksonville (Ill.) CC, sent out to his members a letter which brought pro shop sales by using a selling point that is logical but seldom considered. The theme of Bob's message was that the member who plays with inferior equipment on a well-conditioned golf course is not taking advantage of the excellent course he already has bought.

It's an angle that probably would occur to a pro-greenkeeper quicker than to a pro who doesn't have to get the course into good shape, nevertheless it's a point that can be effectively used in showing members that the pro and greenkeeper constitute a team working closely together for the members' profit in enjoyment.

Munk's letter is headed: "Would you play a Stradivarius with a broken bow?"

It reads:

Have you noticed the greens lately? Pure bent grass—no dandelions—no crab-grass—no clover—no mat—no grain—just pure bent turf—healthy and vibrant—smooth as a billiard table—putts true and straight from every angle.

Greens like these are not an accident. They require lots of money and effort. Why not take advantage of the country club's efforts to provide an ideal golf course by using good golf balls and fine golf clubs? If you want to play golf get every enjoyment the game can afford. I would rather play a mediocre course with a good new ball and a well-balanced set of clubs than to play the finest golf course in the country with an old battered-up ball and a set of mis-matched, poorly-balanced clubs.

This country club merits the use of good equipment!