

Turfgrass Questions Answered

By FRED V. GRAU

Q—We are planning to rebuild some greens. We have thought about planting polycross creeping bent. Would this be a good grass for us, and where can we obtain seed? (Texas)

A—Polycross creeping bent, officially known as Penncross, was developed by Prof. Musser at Pennsylvania State University. It is, however, adapted to other regions. Supt. Otis Owen has had wonderful success with Penncross at Dallas CC. There is no seed available at present.

If you are fortunate enough to locate someone with Penncross in the nursery, we suggest you try the following planting method: Run an Aerifier with $\frac{1}{2}$ in. thatch spoons over the nursery to remove little plugs of sod. Gather up these little plugs for planting material. Scatter them over the prepared surface of the green, topdress, roll and water.

Q—We are planting several new greens. What grass would you recommend for our area? (Okla.)

A—Cohansey (C-7) bent consistently has given good results in Oklahoma. The yellowish-green color is attractive and the putting surface is as good as one can find anywhere. Cohansey has heat-resistance which enabled it to come through daily temperatures of 110 degrees-118 degrees F. during the summer of 1954. If you are near Tulsa, you can see an excellent example, the No. 7 green at Tulsa CC, where Alex Repin is supt.

Cohansey was discovered by Supt. E. R. Steiniger at Pine Valley GC in New Jersey. It has demonstrated its aggressiveness at St. Louis, Kansas City, Indianapolis, Cincinnati, Richmond and other places.

The planting method described in the previous Q and A also could be used with Cohansey.

Q—We have heard about Pennlu bent. Do you recommend it for greens? Is there any planting material available? (Del.)

A—There is a limited amount of Pennlu available. Ask your Agricultural Experiment Station for the nearest source of supply. Pennlu produces a dense, dark green putting surface of high quality. It has good disease resistance. In trials at

Penn State, Pennlu consistently scored above other bents. It is one of the parents of Penncross.

Pennlu was discovered at Lulu CC, Phila., and the original area is still there and still beautiful, under the care of Supt. Harold Price.

Q—We wish to aerify greens this fall. Would it be best to do the work late in the season after most play has stopped? (Mass.)

A—No. Aerifying should be done while grass is growing actively. Otherwise, openings will not heal and poa annua invasion is apt to occur.

Time of aerifying is an important factor. There is a considerable variation in the growing period of different bents. Bents that grow late in the fall, such as Congressional, Cohansey, Toronto, Pennlu and Penncross, can be aerified later than a grass like Washington bent, which stops growing when cool weather approaches.

Aerifying is a practice that overcomes compaction which occurs constantly throughout the playing season (also the growing season). For this reason aerifying should be done regularly (preferably once a month) throughout the growing season.

Q—Can you tell me the best grass and the right management for open tees in the Cincinnati area? (Ohio)

A—On sunny tees U-3 Bermuda is doing a splendid job, and some of the other improved strains show great promise. Many Bermuda tees are being cut too high which gives the golfer a spongy, insecure stance. Briefly, the best management is to cut closely, about $\frac{3}{8}$ in., and cut frequently, three to four times a week. Aerify frequently, at least once a month, and fertilize generously, at least two pounds actual nitrogen to 1000 sq. ft. each month. Water rarely is needed on Bermuda tees.

Q—We have a partially shaded tee where we cannot grow Bermuda. We were thinking of using Merion. Would you recommend this? (Michigan)

A—Merion bluegrass, properly managed, ought to give you satisfactory results.

I would strongly recommend that you sod the tee, rather than try to establish the turf from seed. Strip off the old sod. Aerify thoroughly and make generous use of lime and a complete fertilizer prior to laying the Merion sod. This preparation will stimulate rapid knitting.

Proper management of a Merion tee is quite similar to management of Bermuda. That is, close-mowing ($\frac{1}{2}$ in.) and frequent mowing (2 to 3 times a week).

There should be monthly aerifying coupled with fertilizing to supply about 2 pounds actual nitrogen to a 1000 sq. ft. each month. Water infrequently.

Q—How much 40 per cent liquid 2,4,5-T is equal to 1 pound actual acid per acre? (Missouri)

A—A 40 per cent solution contains .4 of a pound actual acid in each pound (approximately pint) of the liquid. So it would take $2\frac{1}{2}$ pounds (pints) of the liquid to equal 1 pound actual acid.

Q—How should the Verti-cut be adjusted in regard to cutting depth?

A—Any machine used on a putting green should be adjusted to operate perfectly. In the case of the Verti-cut, this means that blades should be set just deeply enough to nip off the surface runners. Like a greensmower, the Verti-cut is intended to remove only a small amount of material at a time. If any scar is left upon the green, it definitely indicates that depth adjustment was too deep.

Q—How many times should the Verti-cut be passed over a green?

A—Once over is sufficient, providing the Verti-cut is used at regular, frequent intervals. Don't follow the same path each time the machine is used. Operate from different angles on successive Verti-cuttings. In this way you can most effectively control grain, and prevent the accumulation of thatch.

USGA Places 1956 Championships

The USGA has accepted invitations to entertain 1956 Championships as follows:

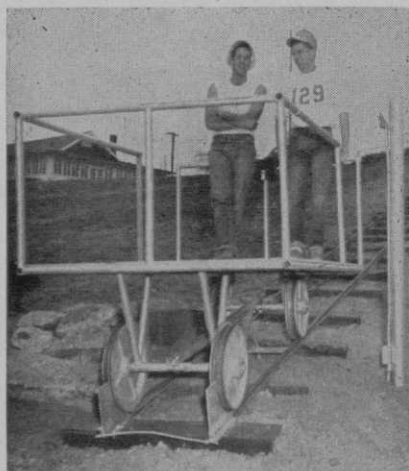
Amateur Championship — Los Angeles (Cal.) CC—North Course. (The Los Angeles Country Club had the USGA Junior Amateur Championship in July.)

Amateur Public Links Championship—City of San Francisco, Cal., Harding Park Golf Course. (The 1937 Championship was played at Harding Park and was won by Bruce McCormick.)

Junior Amateur Championship — Williams College, Williamstown, Mass., at the Taconic GC (owned by the College).

Golfers Get A Lift at Coffeyville, Ks.

The 9th green at Hillcrest (Ks.) GC is at the bottom of a steep hill with a climb to the clubhouse and parking area dangerous to tired older golfers and irritating to younger players. Many of the older players quit the game rather than make the climb.



Kenneth Linday, mgr. of the course, and J. B. Le Clere, recreation director of the Coffeyville Recreation Commission which sponsors the course, worked out the answer to the hill problem with a lift that already has increased play considerably.

The lift platform was constructed locally using narrow-gauged flanged wheels and $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. pipe welded to form the cart. It is floored with $\frac{5}{8}$ in. plywood covered with rubber matting.

Small size railroad track is used, spiked to railroad ties cut in half. The cable is $\frac{5}{8}$ in. wire rope. A regular geared type heavy duty truck winch is used.

The electrical system consists of a 3 hp reversible 220 volt motor with reversible switches at top and bottom of the incline and automatic cut-off switches in the center of the track at the top and bottom of the hill to automatically stop the car at each end of the trip. The electrical system is enclosed in weather-proof conduit.

The lift carries six or seven passengers. The trip each way takes about a minute.