

Veteran Turf Nurseryman Reviews C-19 and C-1

By RALPH R. BOND

CONGRESSIONAL C-19 bentgrass is one of the better bents and evidently has a wide range of adaptability as it ranks high in the midwest, clear across the northern part of the U. S. to UCLA, and in between at Purdue University at Lafayette, Ind. and Iowa State College, Ames.

Because of the exceptional high rating at Ames, year after year, we moved our Congressional nursery into Iowa and started a branch nursery at Farmington where we grow this strain exclusively.

It has always been one of the 5 top strains since its showing in the old pie-shape experimental greens of 1939-1940.

The Congressional strain is less than 20 years old. It was discovered in a green on the Congressional CC, Washington D. C., in 1936.

Congressional has the most attractive color of all bents, being a rich dark green. It has the longest and greatest amount of roots.

It ranks high in dollar spot resistance being on a par with Arlington and Old Orchard, but it has a very poor rating when it comes to brownpatch. Arlington C-1, Cohansey C-7, Norbeck C-36, Washington C-50, Metropolitan C-51, and Old Orchard C-52 creeping bentgrasses all rate higher. Congressional C-19 has the dubious distinction of equaling Toronto C-15 when it comes to brownpatch susceptibility.

It is one of the outstanding bentgrass clones with fine texture, closely knit turf, fine stolons, soft under foot, and true to putt on. It is an upstanding bent without swirl in the greens. The turf is thick but not matty. We believe that the great number of blades to the square inch is because of the number of nodes on the stolons. In our nursery we have observed as high as four nodes to the inch on stolons although one or two would be nearer to the average.

It is an early starter but a medium grower. Ratings for *poa annua* and clover indicate that it is not aggressive.

Congressional had a good start in single planted greens and was doing all right in this respect until someone thought of the idea to plant it in a mixture of C-1 and

C-27. But lately it is coming back into its own. We recently planted three golf courses with this strain without any mixture.

Reviewing its good points and bad points we still think the good points overshadow its bad points and the strain is good enough to be planted alone.

Here is our evaluation of Congressional:

GOOD POINTS.

- 1—Resistance to Dollar Spot.
- 2—Beautiful dark-green color.
- 3—Quality and quantity of its root system.
- 4—Thick turf texture.
- 5—Early starter.
- 6—Holds color throughout the season.
- 7—Likes the heat.
- 8—Can stand very cold weather; winters well.

BAD POINTS.

- 1—Poor rating with brownpatch.
- 2—Average rank for freedom from copper spot.
- 3—Not too aggressive.
- 4—*Poa Annua* and clover invade it.
- 5—Fair recovery after disease.

It is good enough for us to continue growing this strain commercially in large volume.

Arlington C-1 Is Appraised

We feel that some have been misinformed about the Arlington C-1 strain of creeping bentgrass. Our reason for this suspicion is that in two months early this year we had more inquiries to buy this strain for golf courses to be planted alone on greens than we have had in all the nine years we have been growing this strain commercially.

We turned all offers down.

If we had a million bushels of these stolons we would never sell this strain to any golf course if the man in charge was going to plant greens alone with it, without mixing it with another strain.

Here is our evaluation of Arlington C-1 strain. The Arlington is a good tough strain and will take a lot of punishment. It is about tops for bent tees. It is very

resistant to dollar spot, and is a very persistent bent.

The bad points are:

1st. Susceptible to brownpatch.

2nd. Below average in aggressiveness, thereby allowing clover and *Poa Annua* to creep in.

3rd. A slow grower. Does not heal injuries quickly.

4th. Not an early bent; greens up about two weeks later than some strains.

5th. Develops grain.

6th. Has a tendency to swirl in the greens.

7th. Has coarse stolons.

8th. Thins out or disappears if watered excessively.

9th. Has a bluish-green color.

Therefore we feel that the C-1 has too many bad points to offset its good points.

This is the reason that turfgrass experts advocate planting this strain with one or more strains, preferably with Congressional C-19. The idea is that the faults of one strain can be overcome by the good points of the other.

Not once have we heard or read of any responsible turfgrass expert advising planting C-1 alone in the greens.

We have never seen a C-1 green that we would consider to be a first-class green. We wouldn't give 30¢ for some we have seen.

Club Employees' Group Life Insurance Sponsored by WGA

WESTERN Golf Assn. is sponsoring a golf club employees' group life insurance plan which became effective Aug. 1.

The plan has been discussed among Western Golf Assn. officials and officials of its member clubs for some time as needed to meet a want often observed in club operations. In case of death of employees clubs have passed the hat, or have done nothing. The comparison between employment by organizations of gentlemen sportsmen and by private industry with insurance and other benefits set up by management and unions hasn't made the gentlemen sportsmen's organizations shine as employers.

Benefits and monthly cost per employee of the group insurance which is available to all member clubs of the Western Golf Assn. are:

Pro, manager, course supt. . . . \$5000

for life insurance and \$5000 additional for accidental death, at monthly cost of \$6.25 per employee;

Asst. pro, asst. mgr., caddymaster, or other department head . . . \$3000 life insurance and \$3000 additional for accidental death, at monthly cost per employee of \$3.75;

All other employees (and any over age 65) . . . \$1000 life insurance and \$1000 additional for accidental death, at monthly cost per employee of \$1.26.

Waldo D. Thorsen, 1 North LaSalle st., Chicago 2, Ill., the insurance broker who set up the plan says:

"The plan is available to all Western Golf Assn. member clubs that have five or more employees. A full-time employee is defined as one who is employed at least seven months a year. The plan does not cover casual, part-time or temporary employees.

"It is a non-medical group life insurance plan on a non-contributory basis with the member club paying the entire cost of covering its own employees. The plan is underwritten by the State Mutual Life Assurance Co., Worcester, Mass.

"As the plan has just recently become effective any member club not already participating and wishing to enroll its eligible employees, may do so prior to Nov. 1, 1955, without submitting evidence of insurability of individual employees.

"The plan already has proved effective in mutually improving employer-employee relations at outstanding clubs such as Exmoor, Indian Hill and Bob O'Link in the Chicago district and at other prominent clubs in the midwest."

Details of the plan may be obtained from the Western Golf Assn., Golf, Ill.

Spalding Quickly Recovers From Flood Damage

FLOOD damage following hurricane Diane had Spalding's Chicopee, Mass., plant carrying 18 in. of water throughout the first floor.

Production was down for ten days. Raw materials, in-process manufacturing and some finished stock were affected by the flood but energetic, well-organized clean-up operations got the situation restored to nearly normal quickly.

Spalding customers were only slightly inconvenienced by the flood damage at the factory. Decentralized warehouse stocks made it possible for the company to ship most items without delay.