

greens we used a substantial base of sand and gravel and then a fill of mulched sand and earth which at the time we figured would be satisfactory. Now we find the mixture had quite a percentage of clay. Our greens are fairly hard and in some places are cracking open. (N. Y.)

A. You are up against a serious problem. Before I can reply helpfully I should know the stage of construction. Have the greens been planted? Send a pint of representative soil sample directly to me at Box 177, College Park, Md. in a polyethylene bag, dropped inside a cloth bag, tied and tagged for Parcel Post, Special Delivery. Meanwhile send me details of how the sand and soil were mixed and in what proportions. With the sample and information I will be better able to advise you.

Q. (1) Can bent grass be overseeded with more of the same strain of bent? If so, what time of the year is the best. At what rate would you overseed? The reason I ask is that several of our greens are becoming thin but not spotty enough for resodding.

(2) Another situation that has arisen is this: There are plans to build a new green right between two large maple trees, about 120 ft. apart. This area is shaded almost all of the time. Would Emerald Zoysia be a good grass to put on that green? (Ky.)

(1) Yes, bent greens can be overseeded with either the same kind of bent or a better one. Early fall is best for doing this. Thorough spiking will help to lodge the seeds in the holes for better chance to grow. My choice for overseeding as soon as the seed is available is Penn-cross bent seed. There should be some available this fall.

(2) Maple trees are serious competitors of bentgrass. The choice of location is not best for the grass but with extra funds and help to meet the situation you should be able to have a fair to good bent green.

Emerald Zoysia would not be my choice in this location. I would choose Penn-cross bent seed as most likely to adapt itself to the situation.

To be successful, it will be necessary to provide the very best in drainage, depth of soil, barriers to keep tree roots out and in skilled maintenance.

Q. Is it ever beneficial to leave clippings on the putting greens? Would there be any possibility of these clippings growing if the green was just topdressed? I am having a discussion of the second question and don't believe it possible. (Wis.)

A. There is one time when it is beneficial to leave clippings on the greens. That is when they are being mowed for the first time after stolonizing, before the green is put into play. Thin and bare spots are covered with the rather long cuttings, many of which have joints and will grow if they are topdressed and kept moist.

I believe your question referred to greens already in play. Leaving clippings here would not be beneficial. The possibility of any of

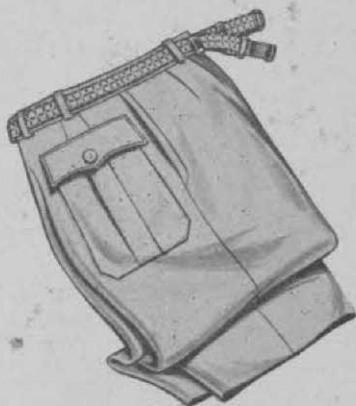
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