

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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### Turfgrass Questions

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the clippings from normal mowing taking roots and growing is extremely slight.

Clippings taken following aerifying and verticutting often are carefully used as planting material because they contain a good percentage of stolons which will grow when top-dressed and kept moist. Clippings left on the green could be a factor in encouraging diseases. Removing them is one step in sanitation.

**Q.** We have put in nine grass greens this Spring planted with C1 and C19 Stolons. Things are going reasonably well. We would like to get a comprehensive book on the care and maintenance of greens. If you will recommend where to get a book on grass greens we will appreciate it very much. We have followed your articles in GOLFDOM with great interest for some time (Minn.)

**A.** We hope you will be pleased with the C1-C19 combination greens. We can't help but add this bit of advice: Feed them well, cut them close and often, and let them get good and dry occasionally.

The best book we know of on care and maintenance of greens is H. B. Musser's Turf Management, McGraw-Hill Book Co., 330 W. 42nd St., New York 18.

You might ask West Point Products Corp., West Point, Pa., for its bulletin, "Superior

Putting Greens," published a short time ago.

**Q.** Is the use of sulfur water harmful to greens? If not, is it advisable to use this water in preference to creek or river water? (Ohio.)

**A.** The answer is dependent upon the percent of sulfur in the water. Sulfur is a necessary element for growing plants but, like many other things, an excess can be toxic. Sulfur tends to develop an acid condition in the soil which easily can be corrected with lime. An analysis of the water will help to determine if the sulfur would be toxic based upon the quantity you expect to use. I cannot say if the sulfur water would be preferable to creek or river water because I know nothing about the quality of water from any of the sources you mention.

**Q.** Can you advise as to the best practice in this latitude for getting grass greens through long, cold winters with the least damage? For several years our greens have been covered during winter with brush. This spring we had a lot of trouble with snow-mold. How can this be avoided? (S. D.)

**A.** Where snowmold is a problem the first step is to treat the greens in late fall with mercury fungicides. Follow manufacturer's directions. Also consider the use of a grass known to be resistant to snowmold. Congressional (C-19) creeping bent has shown a high degree of resistance in tests in the U. S. and Canada.