



## BENT GRASS

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- PENNLU
- WASHINGTON
- COHANSEY (C7)
- ARLINGTON (C1)
- CONGRESSIONAL (C19)

### HIRAM F. GODWIN & SON

22366 Grand River Ave.

Detroit 19, Mich

water slowly so that the soil absorbs it as fast as it is applied.

Chances are the principal fertilizer requirement is nitrogen to stimulate growth and color. It would be well to have soil tests made at your nearest soil testing laboratory.

A vigorous fine-bladed vegetative Bermuda should be your putting green grass. Seed is not likely to give you the results you are looking for.

Aerating equipment is used to get water, air and fertilizer into the soil to get more effective use of water and fertilization and to promote deep rooting.

Watering should be done as needed with emphasis on deep soaking at long intervals with hand watering in between to maintain growth and color. Well-fertilized grass needs less water than hungry grass. It is a mistake continually to use water as a "soil-softening tool." Best time to water is early morning to wash the dew off the blades. This reduces disease and the grass dries faster, enabling the mowers, and play to start sooner.

The best height of cut for a greens mower is in a range between  $3/16$  and  $1/4$  in. If set higher than  $1/4$  the grass tends to get matted and produces a poor putting surface.

**Q.** I am writing you in regard to yellowish green looking spots on my greens. I have tried different kinds of fertilizer but they don't help much. These are spots about 12 or 18 ins. across scattered over the green. I had trouble

with them last year for the first time. All come about this time of year. I think aerifying might help. What do you think?—(Kans.)

**A.** We have racked our brains for an answer to your problem of yellowish-green spots on your greens but draw a blank. From the limited description, we fail to recall anything in our experience that matches this.

Our first thought is that the spots may be a particular strain or type of grass. This is a wild guess, not knowing the kind of grass on the greens. It is possible that it may be nematodes. Without a description of the kind of trouble it is very difficult to diagnose, especially 1300 miles away.

We urge you to take your problem to Dr. Ray Keen at the Agricultural College at Manhattan, Kans. This requires on-the-spot inspection and diagnosis.

**Q.** Our grass greens suffer severely from "winterkill" and smothering from ice and snow which covers them all winter. Would it help if the greens were to be covered in fall with light tree branches, with straw thrown over the branches? (S. D.)

**A.** First, let us analyze the problem. "Winterkill" might be desiccation (drying out) in early spring when the ice and snow are gone. Dry winds can remove moisture from the blades of grass while the soil still is frozen and the roots thus don't get enough moisture.

"Winterkill" could be severe snowmold at-

tacks which would be active most of the winter but the effects would show only after the snow and ice left.

The effect of dessication could be lessened by using tree branches to hold a snow cover until late spring when the soil would be thawed so that roots could absorb moisture.

Snowmold can be reduced by using a resistant grass (Congressional bent) and by making fall applications of specific fungicides, according to manufacturers' recommendations.

I favor the tree branch cover if a mercury treatment is to be made in advance.

**Q.** We are planning to start several experimental plots of bent grasses with the idea of eventually using the most satisfactory strain on our own courses. We would like your recommendation as to the most satisfactory strain or strains to use in this locality. Washington bent has been highly recommended to us.

We have a small plot of bent grass on one of our golf courses. No one seems to know where it came from but it is apparently doing very nicely. Is there anyone that we could send some sample plugs to and have it identified? (N. C.)

**A.** You are wise to start a test nursery so that your eventual choice of a grass will be the one which performs best under your conditions.

Washington bent has been a good one. The only trouble is that there is more than one "Washington" and some are better than others. Their identity has been clouded over the years.

Cohansey (C-7) creeping bent is giving a good account of itself where summer heat is hard on other bents. Arlington (C-1) and Congressional (C-19) mixed together are doing very well near you. Arlington alone is very good on many courses. Right now, that just about exhausts my choices. You could add Pennlu to your nursery because it needs to be tested in the south. When Penncross seed is available (this fall, we hope) you certainly should have a plot of that.

Perhaps you would like to establish a few test plots of fine-bladed Bermuda grasses. With poa annua as a naturally occurring cool season grass, you might be pleased with the performance of Bermuda. I would suggest trying three to start with: Gene Tift, Tifgreen and Ugandagrass.

When you find patch of a grass that is outstanding by all means preserve it and send a specimen (a 4-in. plug, soil shaken out, dried almost to wilting, wrapped in polyethylene and mailed parcel post special delivery) to someone who can evaluate it.

I would be glad to plant it in my nursery where I am observing several interesting grasses and I would identify it for you if I am able. If it shows promise it can be increased and sent to experiment stations for further testing.

**Q.** We are building a new 18-hole course at Vineland, N. J., greens to be planted in C7. I am interested in finding out more about this grass. Do you have any information about it? (N. J.)

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