

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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A. Cohansey (C-7) creeping bent was selected by E. R. Steiniger at Pine Valley, N. J. It is an excellent hot-weather grass which holds good color early and late as well. It has a light yellow-green color which is very pleasing when a green is planted solid to this grass. By contrast with a dark green bent, often it is unfairly graded down by those who have a personal preference for dark green.

It is somewhat susceptible to dollarspot which is easily to control with nitrogen feeding and suitable fungicides. It is quite resistant to brownpatch. It is vigorous, aggressive grass and resists the invasion of poa annua very well. develop a sense of when to use it.

Q. I have just purchased an aerifier with the idea of using it not only on my private lawn, but on our course as well. I have been chairman of our green committee for many years. How often should we aerify each of the following:

Lawn — centipede, zoysia and Bermuda;
fairways — centipede and Bermuda; tees — Bermuda; greens — Bermuda (summer) and rye (winter)?

Our soil is a sandy loam with very little organic matter in it. It is not a good soil. We do not add much fertilizer to our fairways. We do use quite a lot of fertilizer on lawn, tees and greens. (Ala.)

A. The "pat" answer to "how often should we aerify?" is "as often as necessary". Now, all I have to do is tell you when it is necessary.

You can aerify to advantage just before you fertilize. This promotes deep penetration of materials. When water begins to run off instead of soaking in, it is time to aerify. This is good procedure in connection with seeding. In general, Bermuda can use more aerifying than centipede and zoysia.

Aerifying promotes the free circulation of air (oxygen) in the soil, enhancing value and efficiency of fertilizers. Some courses aerify Bermuda fairways once a month.

Aerifying helps to topdress turf and create a firm resilience. Fairways that get hard in summer can be softened mechanically by regular aerifying, starting when there is natural moisture in the soil which improves deep penetration. Golfers claim that aerified fairways are easier to walk on.

The need for aerifying greens will depend upon the kind of soil, how badly they need cultivation and other factors. I am a firm advocate of four-way aerifying, doing a good job while you are at it, then leaving the greens to the golfers until needed again. Twice or three times a year for four-way aerifying should be sufficient in most cases. Tees will need cultivation more often than fairways—about once a month.

Your sandy loam soil can develop a crusted condition which can shed rain like a roof. When that happens you can be sure that it is time to aerify again. As you operate the machine and observe the results you will soon develop a sense of when to use it.