

**Q.** We are starting construction of a new 9-hole course. Our committee is charged with responsibility of securing the best possible putting surfaces and fairways. We know very little about the relative merits of the various strains of Bent and Bermuda. We would appreciate any information you could give us on this subject generally and specifically on the following points:

1. What grasses give the best putting surface during the various seasons in our location? What is the initial comparative cost of the various green turfs in regard to:

- a. cost of seed?
- b. cost of stolons?
- c. Any special green construction cost or soil preparation cost of one green not necessarily applicable to others?

2. Is growing bent, considering initial cost, heat and disease susceptibility, practical in this climate for a small club with somewhat limited funds?

3. What maintenance operations are necessary in the good management of bent that are not also necessary in the management of Bermuda?

4. Is it essential to have a "bent grass" man to grow and maintain bent successfully, or rather can any intelligent greenskeeper master the problems peculiar to management of bent greens?

5. Which variety of Bermuda is best in our section? Which variety of bent is best in our section? (Tenn.)

A. Considering your length of growing season and knowing the habits of improved strains of Bermuda, I would say that your club, with limited funds, will have the best putting surfaces from an improved Bermuda grass.

The cost of preparing and planting a green is about the same regardless of the kind of grass used. Using seed may be slightly cheaper at first but more costly later because of higher maintenance costs.

Stolons of bent or sprigs of improved Bermuda cost about the same for establishing a green, roughly \$40 to \$50 for 1,000 sq. ft. for planting material. Knowing what an improved Bermuda can do on a green in your area I would advise against bent at this time under the conditions which you describe. Bentgrass requires more careful watering, much more attention for disease control, and very delicate handling during the heat of the summer. Bermuda greens are more rugged, and more disease resistant. Mowing costs are the same. Watering costs will be less for Bermuda.

From what I have seen, I'd say a "bentgrass man" is virtually essential for bent greens in your part of the country. Any good supt. can master the problems of bent but it is possible to lose a lot of grass while he learns the proper methods.

Again, based on my experience, I would choose Ugandagrass for bermuda greens in your section. It is as fine as bent, it is rugged, easy to keep, and it is a good companion to

## Turfgrass Meetings

Feb. 10-15 — 28th National Turfgrass Conference & Show, GCSA, Kentucky Hotel, Louisville.

Feb. 18-21 — Penn State Turfgrass Conference, University Park, Pa.

Feb. 25-26 — Southern Turfgrass Conference, Colonial CC, Memphis.

Feb. 25-28 — Cornell Turfgrass Conference, Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.

Feb. 27-Mar. 1 — Minnesota Turf Conference, Curtis Hotel, Minneapolis.

Mar. 4-6 — Midwest Turf Conference, Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind.

Mar. 11-13 — Iowa Turfgrass Short Course, Memorial Union, Iowa State College, Ames.

Mar. 18-19 — School of Soils, Fertilization, Maintenance Conference, Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph.

Apr. 12 — Truro Turfgrass Conference, Nova Scotia Agricultural College, Truro, N. S.

Poa annua which is our universal winter grass. No Bermuda that I have seen produces finer putting surfaces. It is very winter-hardy into Pennsylvania, West Virginia and New York.

If I were to grow bent greens in your area I would choose Cohansey (C-7) bent. It is a good heat-resistant bent but very susceptible to dollarspot. There are excellent greens of Arlington (C-1) bent in Tennessee but I would hesitate to select this grass under your conditions.

## 1957 International Matches To Be Held in Japan

The third International Trophy matches and fifth annual competition for the Canada Cup will be held concurrently in Tokyo in October, according to the International Golf Assn. of which John Jay Hopkins is founder and chmn. This will be the first major event played in Japan in which golfers throughout the world will participate.

In accepting the invitation of the Japanese Golf Assn. to hold the international competitions in Tokyo, Hopkins said he was influenced by the fact that the Japanese are among the world's most enthusiastic golfers and many of their courses are of championship caliber. In the 1956 matches in Surrey, Eng., Japan, represented by Yoshiro Hayashi and Michio Ishii, placed fourth in the Canada Cup competition.