



(Left to right): James M. Latham, Jr., M. K. Jeffords, George H. King, Andrew Bertoni, Dr. Glenn Burton, George P. Donaldson, B. P. Robinson.

Burton Gets GCSA Award for Work with Bermudas

During the recent Southeastern Turfgrass conference at Tifton, Ga., Dr. Glenn Burton was presented a plaque by the GCSA for his extensive and valuable work in the propagation of hybrid Bermudas.

Making the presentation on behalf of GCSA was Director Andrew Bertoni, Supt. at Meadowbrook CC, Northville, Mich.,

who also appeared as a speaker on the conference program. When presenting the award Bertoni said: "The GCSA has found it a privilege to present you with this plaque in recognition of your promotion of turfgrass. The cross-breeding and propagation of refined grasses has earned the gratitude of golfers, turfmen and lawn lovers throughout the world. Supts. admire, honor and gratefully appreciate your many splendid achievements."

ways thought that theory sound as applied to most common lawn grasses such as bluegrass and fescue but I have been led to believe that bent should be watered thoroughly 5 or 6 times a week. Most of the good grass greens that I have played on seem to stay wet pretty constantly. Our supt. follows your theory and waters the greens only twice a week and not too thoroughly then. I would certainly appreciate your remarks on this subject. (Va.)

A. Most bent greens that are thoroughly watered five to six times a week usually are badly overwatered. Bent can't use this much water but it struggles to adapt itself to this practice which is used to keep greens soft. A dry green is a healthy green. Diseases need lots of moisture to grow and spread. Supts. who try to keep greens on the dry side to keep them healthy are very likely to be criticized for the greens being too hard. A hard green is difficult for most players, amateurs especially, because no one ever taught them how to play to a firm green. Rather than invite excessive disease with excess water designed to keep the green soft, it would be better to thoroughly aerate greens at intervals and to incorporate sand. This, in effect changes soil composition, creates better drainage, deeper roots and greater resilience.

Greens can be kept drier and healthier and capable of holding a well-played shot even when they are dry! A good watering twice a week, plus spot touchups as needed, should maintain greens in good shape if the grass is adapted, and has deep roots in a well-drained soil.

Filling In Bare Spots

Q. Our municipal course is built around a hill with an average slope of 6 ft. per 100. We have bentgrass greens and bluegrass tees. The fairways are mostly blue grama with some crested wheat. The blue grama is growing as it does on the pasture in this country, in bunches with bare spots between. We are trying to mow, water and fertilize to get the grass to spread.

Our question is, would it hurt or help the fairway situation to use a 20-ton roller to bring the grass clumps down level with the surfaces or would it be better to aerate and keep filling in? (N. Mex.)

A. My better judgment tells me to advise you not to use the 20-ton roller to smooth the surface of the fairways. I am afraid that this might create such compaction that you would not be able to get water to enter the soil nor would the grass survive this treatment for long. I would advise you to continue to water and fertilize so as to give the grass a chance to spread and fill in the voids. Unfortunately, blue grama will not do this by itself. I would advise introducing some Buffalo grass and some Ugandagrass for more rapid coverage in your climate. By filling the spaces between the grama clumps with these spreading grasses, your water and fertilizer will be able to do some good and you will be able to mow and develop a fairly smooth, dense fairway sod. I am not sure that I would continue to do much aerating if you are able to obtain satisfactory penetration of irrigation water. This might be accomplished later on when the turf is solid.

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