

Tufted Bent

Q. Last year, for the first time, on several of our greens the bent immediately around the aerified holes became tufted and there was some scalping when it was mowed. This was most noticeable after the latter part of July. Why should this be the case on only several of our greens and what causes it? (S. D.)

A. Several things could cause tufting around the holes. One is depth of penetration of the tines or spoons. The deeper they go, the more likely they are to raise the turf immediately around the hole. Another reason might be that if your greens have poa annua in them they might tuft up worse than Washington bent. Another reason could be difference in quality and texture of the grass.

I would look first, however, to the depth of penetration of the points that enter the soil. The operator has a great deal to do with proper use of aerating machines. Where this tufting or lifting is severe and it is noticed before the greens are mowed, a light rolling will help to smooth the surface so that mowing can be done without undue scalping.

Sawdust for Greens

Q. We've been using inorganic fertilizer for many years on our seaside creeping bent greens without adding humus. Our green beds are mostly fine sand on top of a light sandy soil foundation. In the spring greens come along fine but in July and August they get hard and the grass gets thin and lifeless regardless of how much water we use. We have just purchased a used greens aerator.

Our funds are very limited. We cannot afford to topdress our greens with peat after we aerify them, but we have an unlimited supply of old sawdust near at hand to use if it would be beneficial. We also expect to use Ureaform this spring. How much Urea-form should we use and should we use the old sawdust? We also are going to cut the roots from the nearby trees which have run into our greens. Is it possible to stop the roots from future spreading under our greens? (Wisc.)

A. Continued use of inorganic fertilizer has a tendency to make soils hard. When water does not enter the soil easily we try to correct the condition by pouring on more and more water. This makes a bad situation worse. You are on the right track in aerating the soil to help roots grow.

I would encourage the use of sawdust to add organic material to the sandy soil. Remember that the sawdust will float out if it is applied on the surface. It will be best to blend the sawdust with soil and compost it for a year. The sawdust that is worked down into the holes made by the aerating machine will be of benefit.

You have made a wise decision to fertilize with a Urea-form fertilizer. This will feed the bacteria which will work on the sawdust and will help to create better physical conditions in the soil. I would guess that you will be all right with two applications of Urea-form; one in very early spring and one in early June, each at



Francis Ouimet (left) talks over Triangle Round Robin tournament with Sponsor John E. McAuliffe, pres. of Triangle Conduit & Cable Co. The \$12,000 event for women pros will be played June 12-15 at Tedesco CC, Marblehead, Mass., and will benefit the Ouimet Caddie Scholarship Fund and a Salem hospital.

10 to 11 lbs. of Urea-form (38% N.) to 1,000 sq. ft., preferably at the time of aerating greens. Try to use only enough water and let the grass roots work for you in providing resilience.

U-3 from Seed

Q. We have been growing improved strains of bermudagrass for the past several years, starting out with U-3 and offering Transvaal, Tifton 127, Sunturf and Tifton 328. Last season we were somewhat surprised to see U-3 bermuda offered from seed and under the Interstate Certification Program of the crop improvement Assn. carrying a blue tag. It is a little difficult to reconcile this offering of U-3 from seed with the aims and purposes of the various crop improvement assns. We are wondering if you had any knowledge of this or if you would care to express an opinion. (Okla.)

A. Yes, we have known of the offering of seed, supposedly from U-3 bermudagrass. I, too, am disturbed about the so-called U-3 bermuda seed being offered under the blue tag of the Interstate Certification program. It is a well-known fact, substantiated at a number of experiment stations that this seed, sold as U-3, does not produce turf comparable to that produced from sprigs of true U-3 bermuda. The seed on the market labeled U-3, so far as I know, does not have the approval of any of the experiment station workers. To the best of our knowledge this seed produces a turf that is comparable in every respect to that produced from common bermudagrass seed, Arizona grown. We know of no data that could support certification of this item.

It is our opinion that prospective purchasers of this seed labelled U-3 should be told that it will not produce turf comparable to that produced from sprigs of true U-3 bermuda.

Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council recently elected Joseph Gackenbach, Allentown, pres., for the coming year. Other officers are A. A. Schultz, vp; Paul Leix, supt., Allegheny CC, Pittsburgh, vp; and Tom Mascaro, West Point Products, secy-treas.