

Recommends Using Bermuda in Preference to Bent, Rye on Florida Greens

By FRED BROWN

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As I see it, supts. who work in warm regions, such as in Florida, ask for trouble in overseeding greens. In the fall, for example, when overseeded, greens are either taken out of play or are in such poor condition they shouldn't be used. In the spring the same poor condition exists during the transition period while rye or bent is bowing out.

Bermuda, our basic grass for greens, should be in a growing stage in the spring, but if it has been overseeded it has old, dead turf to contend with. The result is that it becomes permeated with thatch, and thatch, in turn, becomes a nesting place for insects and fungi. Then, it delays detection of trouble and if the greens finally are treated to rid them of disease or fungi, thatch retards penetration of the soil by chemicals and fertilizers that are intended to remedy them. It's a vicious circle — at its worst.

Some supts., of course, claim they can

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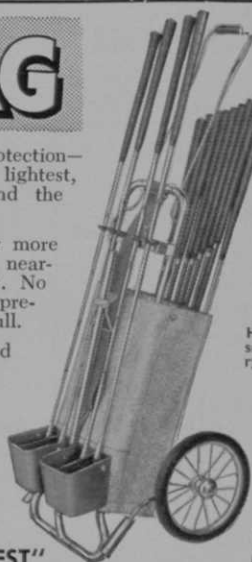
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get rid of thatch by verti-cutting, but my reply to this is: "Why go to the added trouble and expense of growing thatch-producing bent or rye in the first place?"

Two Strains Recommended

In the Florida area there are at least two strains of Bermuda that will hold up through the year, retaining excellent color and providing superior putting surfaces. They compare favorably with bent in color, texture, putting qualities, and probably most important, cost of maintenance.

These strains are Everglades No. 1 and and Tifton 328.

They hold up exceptionally well through the year with little more than mowing and verti-cutting being needed. Supts. will have to change their fertilization and topdressing practices to keep them in top condition but, generally, they require only about 50 per cent as much maintenance as overseeded grasses. If they lose their color at any time it takes only a spell of warm weather to restore it.

To do away with overseeding and switch completely to either Everglades or 328, I suggest that you plant 8,000 or 10,000 sq. ft. of either of these grasses in your nursery. Next year you can use the



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nursery stock for resodding greens and to increase the size of the nursery. In two year's time there will be enough stock to stolonize 18 greens or nine tees and nine greens and replant the nursery so that your full 18 tees and greens can be finished the third year. There may even be enough stolons left at this time to start on fairways. The cost of getting your nursery started, by the way, is very small.

Watson, Wilson Collaborate on GCSA Conference Summary

J. R. Watson of Toro Mfg. Co., Minneapolis, and Charles G. Wilson, Milwaukee Sewerage Commission, collaborated on "Highlights of the Educational Conference," which summarized speeches given at the GCSA's 30th annual turf show. The booklet runs to 22 pages and gives a quite complete condensation of what was said by about 50 speakers and panelists at the conference.

In the introduction to the booklet, Henson E. Maples, who was chmn. of the Educational Committee, points out that only 10 years ago, 400 persons attended the turf conference. This year's attendance was well over 1,700.

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