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MANUFACTURING CO. INC.

P. O. Box 232

Fresno 8, California

Grau's Answers (Continued from page 60)

Fine-Texture Bermuda

Q. I am asking your opinion on the new fine-textured Bermuda, such as Tifton 328, Ugandagrass and any other that you would recommend in our vicinity. I am building a new 18-hole course and I am anxious to try one of the new Bermudas. I have pioneered with bent. I am sure that I can have good bent greens here but I would like to have one of the new fine-bladed Bermudas because I think there is a great future for these grasses. (Texas)

A. You will be able to grow perfectly satisfactory greens with the fine-bladed Bermudas such as 328 and Ugandagrass. The principal difficulty will be play during the winter. The Bermudas will go dormant and should not receive heavy traffic during the dormant period. This can be fatal where the traffic exceeds a certain maximum. If the course is closed during the winter, so much the better. There are excellent greens of Ugandagrass on a public course near Washington, D. C. that have been under heavy play for two seasons. The first season they were kept open for play and, in the spring, they were very slow in recovering. Some areas were killed. This winter the greens are closed and players are using temporaries.

The management of the fine-bladed Bermudas will not vary much from bents. They must be cut at 3/16 of an in. daily and will require high nitrogen fertilization. Excellent drainage is a "must." Phosphorus may be maintained at rather a low level, but potash feeding must be maintained at a level almost as high as nitrogen.

Problem of Wilt

Q. Our biggest problem here is wilt. We follow pretty well accepted practices of the better courses in watering, fertilizing, etc., but during the summer months it is one endless job of syringing the greens. Is there something wrong with our Washington bent for this locality, or is it in our root systems? Perhaps you can suggest some reasons for the severe wilt that we are bothered with. (Indiana)

A. It is difficult to attempt to analyze your problem of wilt without knowing a great deal more about the details of watering, fertilizing and other phases of your management program. It may be that the roots are badly restricted by a layer of some kind. Perhaps the soil under the turf is too heavy and cannot drain well. Perhaps drains are plugged up. Certainly there is nothing wrong with Washington bent. It is one of the better ones, particularly for the hot summer months and, with a well-drained soil and good fertilization program, there should be little or no wilt.

I recently talked to a man who has been through exactly the same kind of weather as everyone else, and he is very pleased with his trouble-free greens. He has good drainage, a good grass, and he fertilizes twice a year with a slow-release material. Nothing is added to the greens during the entire summer season from late spring until early fall.