



Overseeding Bermuda Greens

Location Is Important Factor • O. J. Noer

Tests at Sea Island • T. M. Baumgardner

How It's Done at DeSoto Lakes • Jack Bernard

Some Observations by Ray Jensen

(Articles start on Page 68)

Location Is Factor in Choice of Grass Selection

By O. J. Noer

Bermuda greens have been overseeded with domestic rye for many years. Ability to survive cold weather has been one of rye's virtues, especially in the region from Central Florida on north. The odd blanket of snow in the belt west from Virginia and North Carolina has never hurt the rye. It has stayed green and resumed growth after the snow has melted.

In recent years it has been a problem to get a stand of rye in South Florida when winter play was started right after the Christmas holidays and after seeding was carried out at Thanksgiving time. By then the fall rainy season was over, weather became less humid and temperatures more moderate. Now winter play is started early in Nov. That means earlier seeding — when the weather is apt to be hot, wet and humid. Under such conditions, damp-off, caused by pythium, may take a terrific toll.

Adjusted to Climate

Seeding procedures have been adjusted to local climate and weather. Although rye, once established, will take a lot of cold weather, seed will not germinate when it's cold. So in the northern parts of the South it becomes necessary to produce good grass cover while weather is favorable for seed germination. Greens are seeded once at 50 to 100 lbs. rye seed per 1,000 sq. ft. In the deep South germination is no problem so clubs are prone to rely on split seeding because of the damp-off disease danger. They may seed two or three times, at 7 to 14 day intervals, and use 25 to 40 lbs of seed per 1,000 sq. ft., each time.

Tender initial growth is typical of all plant seedlings. Rye is especially bad. Tenderness is accentuated by abundant water and a plentiful supply of nitrogen. That is the secret of crisp, tender lettuce and celery. Phosphate and potash, especially, tend to foster a sturdier type of growth. Practices which promote sturdiness will minimize damp-off and help make pre-seeding fungicide treatments more effective.

Fertilizing Can Be Delayed

Basically it involves using phosphate and potash only at seeding time. Rye seed is one of the larger grass seeds. It contains enough nitrogen to start seedling

growth. There is time enough to begin the use of nitrogen fertilizer two to three weeks after seeding. The soil during germination should be moist but not wet. This may involve light syringing, usually not more than 10 minutes to a green, several times a day, during hot, windy spells of weather. Some go so far as to exclude or include a minimum of organic matter in the topdressing used after seeding to reduce the hazard of over-wetness.

Rye is still best for greens of common Bermuda. On the new fine textured Bermudas, such as Gene Tift, Everglades, and Tiffine (Tifton 328), other cool season grasses are being tried and will supplant rye. They produce putting surfaces more like bent greens and are preferred by northern golfers who go south for all or part of the winter.

Good Initial Cover

Although there have been excellent winter greens over-seeded with a mixture of Kentucky blue grass, red top and bent grass there may be an even better combination. The problem is to find something that will provide good initial cover and mask poa annua when it is a problem. Cost must be within reason.

Poa trivialis may be one of the answers and preferable to red top. It germinates quickly, covers rapidly and masks poa annua better than any other grass. Its ability to cope with pythium is not known because the disease so far has not been virulent where poa trivialis has been tried. Pennlawn and Illahee fescue germinate very quickly and make excellent putting surfaces. When these are used alone, high seeding rates are necessary and hence rather costly. They do not mask poa annua. Their place would seem to be in mixtures with poa trivialis and bent, possibly along with some Kentucky blue.

Overseeding Trials

In the overseeding trials established cooperatively by the Milwaukee Sewerage Commission and East Lake CC in Atlanta and at Sea Island for two years, and Ponte Vedra for one season, the best plots have been the ones containing poa trivialis and Seaside bent together or in combination with Kentucky blue and/or fescue. Penn-

(Continued on page 118)

Best Combinations Sought in Sea Island Tests

By T. M. Baumgardner
Sea Island (Ga.) GC

For the past two years we have been cooperating with O. J. Noer and Charlie Wilson of the Milwaukee Sewerage Commission in running 25 overseeding test plots on the margin of one of our regular greens. Grasses used in these plots, both individually and in various combinations and at various rates, have been: Domestic and perennial rye, Seaside, Penncross, Highland and Astoria bents — poa trivialis-Redtop-Pennlawn Fescue and Kentucky blue. While results of the tests cannot yet be considered conclusive, we think we have learned a lot. Tests will be continued again this year.

The finer textured grasses in these tests which have appeared to be the best, either individually or in various combinations, have been Seaside and Penncross Bent, poa trivialis and Pennlawn Fescue.

Slow to Catch On

At Sea Island, grasses other than rye did not develop fast enough in the fall to provide satisfactory color and density in Dec. and Jan. when our Bermudagrass normally is dormant. We have important tournaments during these months and we must also compete with South Florida resorts, so we feel we must still use some domestic ryegrass because of its earlier development.

For the past two seasons we have overlooked our 27 (328) Bermuda greens with a combination of poa trivialis, Seaside Bentgrass and domestic. Our superintendent, Marion McKendree, uses the following renovation and seeding methods:

Preparation and Sowing

In mid-October greens are seeded with two pounds each of Seaside Bent and poa trivialis per 1,000 sq. ft. The seedbed was prepared by aerifying the greens with ¼-inch spoons and at time of seeding they were verti-cut fairly severely in at least two directions and thoroughly spiked with a Wolfram 3-gang spiker. The greens were then lightly topdressed, seed sown and lightly matted in. Daily hand-watering was practiced until seed was well up. A fair stand of the two grasses was obtained in three weeks.

Fungicides were applied only when weather conditions were favorable for fungus development.

Didn't Thin by Verti-Cutting

After an interval of three to four weeks, domestic rye was planted at the rate of 40 to 50 lbs per 1,000 sq. ft. Greens weren't verti-cut for this ryegrass planting because we thought this would tend to thin the stand of poa trivialis and Seaside. The greens at this time were thoroughly spiked with a 3-gang spiker, seeded to ryegrass and topdressed lightly. Fungicide consisting of Captan and Actidione was applied after seeding in an effort to hold down damping-off in an effium. Greens were kept in play continuously with mowing height raised to ½-inch for two weeks for the ryegrass seedlings.

Weather Has Helped

We have had uniformly excellent greens for the two seasons we have followed this seeding procedure. However, weather conditions have been favorable and results may not be as good in a season when the weather is more conducive to fungus development.

The poa trivialis, perhaps because of its light green color, has been particularly noticeable in the greens all season. The greater density of the turf has apparently resulted in finer texture of the ryegrass blades than usual for our climate and, of course, the poa trivialis and bent have contributed to finer texture, and better appearance and putting qualities. Transition back to Bermuda in the late spring for the two test seasons has been gradual and without trouble. Greens have been aerified with the Greensaire ¼-in. spoons at least a couple of times during the season and more often in the case of two or three problem greens.

(More on Overseeding on page 72)

Canadian PGA Growth

In 1916 when it was founded, the Canadian PGA had 16 pro members and 8 assistants. Now it has more than 300 members.

Jack Bernard Explains His Method of Overseeding

As it is done
at De Soto Lakes

Results in overseeding Bermuda greens for winter play have continued to show progress in recent years. At some of the Southern courses, winter visitors (pros and amateurs) have pronounced the overseeded greens to be the finest putting surfaces that possibly could be provided.

J. L. (Jack) Bernard, supt., De Soto Lakes G&CC, Sarasota, Fla., has produced overseeded greens that have been widely praised.

Below, Bernard explains his method of getting De Soto's greens, each averaging about 7,500 sq. ft., into condition for winter play:

- The greens are aerified two ways 3 to 4 weeks before planting. Just before seeding the greens are mowed. After mowing, about 1½ yds of good screened topdressing is spread on each green. Then the green is spiked two ways with a Walter power spiker and after that we are ready to plant.

Prefers Astoria to Seaside

I use four different seeds: Kentucky bluegrass, redtop, Astoria or Seaside bent and Highland bent. I prefer Astoria to Seaside and I have found that the Astoria will take the few cold nights that we have better than Seaside will.

I use three spreaders, two Lawn Beauties and a Cyclone. I start on our largest green, setting one Lawn Beauty for 30

lbs. of Kentucky blue and the other one for 28 lbs. of redtop. The Cyclone is set for 11 lbs. of bent. The same amount of bent ((11 lbs.) is seeded to a green.

Seed Isn't Mixed

Seeding is done in four separate operations: first, 30 lbs. of Kentucky blue; second, 28 lbs. of redtop; third, 11 lbs. of Astoria or Seaside, then 11 lbs. of Highland. I never mix the seed.

After the seed is spread I use two steel drag mats and drag them four ways. As soon as the greens are dragged I have a man hand water. He never goes heavy on the water but merely dampens the seed. To do this I prefer to use a Rose nozzle.

Mows on Third Day

Tifton 328, my base grass, is in the dormant stage when I overseed. I plant any time between Nov. 15 and Dec. 1. Mowing can be carried out the third day after seeding. If any seed is being picked up I mow without a grass catcher.

The greens are dampened twice daily until I begin to see results of the seeding. Then we go back to our regular watering program. I get best results from hand watering and do not use a sprinkler on a green at any time.

After planting is finished I spray the greens with a fungicide for disease prevention and with Aqua-Gro to work in a wetting agent. This gives fast germination,

Observations on Overseeding

E. Ray Jensen of Southern Turf Nurseries Discusses Maintenance

Poa trivialis and various strains of bent and red top have been used in recent years for overseeding Southern greens, but generally, rye still is accepted as the winter grass throughout the South.

As for maintenance of overseeded greens, they should be inspected closely each day for signs of disease inroads, particularly during periods of warm, humid weather. Immediate control of disease can't be overemphasized. Applications of Seme-

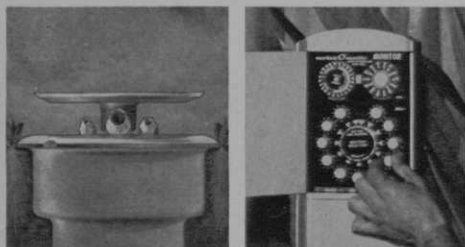
san, PMAS or Caloclor, mixed with Captain 50 W, should be used periodically during danger periods to prevent disease.

Overseeding of Bermuda presents problems. A supt. can't afford to destroy existing turf and to work the soil the same way a farmer does in seeding. The area must be prepared so that seed will come in contact with the soil to encourage rapid germination. This, ordinarily, can be ac-

(Continued on page 118)



moist O' matic PERFORMANCE LEADER IN TURF IRRIGATION



Moist O' Matic's gear driven rotor pop-up turf sprinkler heads lead the field in durability, adaptability, performance and low costs. The entire gear Mechanism is isolated and sealed. Even water distribution is assured by three nozzles in the pop-up head. Up to 180' diameter water coverage means low cost for new installations or conversions. 1° part circle adjustments from 40° to 320° can be made while in operation without special tools. These exclusive advantages and the rugged, compact MONITOR controller have made Moist O' Matic the turf irrigation performance leader.

For complete information, write to:

moist O' matic, inc.

1795 Massachusetts Ave. • Riverside, Calif.

Location in Grass Selection

(Continued from page 68)

lawn fescue seeded at 50 lbs per 1,000 sq. ft. ranked first at East Lake throughout the first year. Poa annua was not present. There was no transition. Tiffine came in as the fescue disappeared. Pennlawn started the same way at Sea Island but lost first place when poa annua appeared in the plot. Then putting was bad.

Poa trivialis at 4 to 6 lbs, and Seaside at 2 to 3 lbs per 1,000 sq. ft. seeded together or along with some Kentucky blue grass and fescue should be a good basic seed mixture. Where weather is cold in Dec. and Jan. overseeding with rye grass at 25 to 40 lbs per 1,000 sq. ft. after other grasses are well established may be justified. Rye will do well then and competition from the other grasses improves its texture.

Can Be Smothered

Any topdressing used after seeding with bent must be at a light rate, otherwise grass will be smothered. Some prefer to cross spike first, topdress and mat the seed in place with a flexible steel mat.

The use of fungicide to check pythium, and a little nitrogen at seeding time seems justified. Bent seed is especially small in size so the young seedling must have food for growth right after germination.

Uncertified bent seed may contain shepherd's purse and related types of weed seeds. They were present in some seed used in Florida last year. The premium for certified blue tag seed is nominal and is the only kind to use.

Overseeding Observations

(Continued from page 72)

completed by aerating one to three weeks ahead of seeding, and verticutting at the time of seeding to reduce thatch and assure soil contact. Use of a power spiker, as needed, also is recommended just prior to seeding. A phosphorus and potash fertilizer, along with lime, should be applied in accordance with soil test findings prior to seeding. The application of a mercury-containing fungicide at this time also is good practice.

Seed should be cross-broadcast uniformly and dragged into turf with a steel door mat. Two or more passes with the mat may be necessary. Following this, about ¼ or ⅜ ins. of sterilized topdressing should be applied. This, too, should be dragged to obtain a level surface. Then water

ONE Golfing Magazine

has a wide margin of leadership in readership concentrated on men and women identified as the top spending customers for top quality golf equipment and apparel!

Golfing

-- the working tie-up of advertising and Pro Shop merchandising!

should be applied. The soil must be kept moist constantly until emergence is complete.

Start Nitrogen Application

As soon as a good stand of overseeded grass is obtained, nitrogen application should be started. Rule of thumb application calls for 1 lb. of N per 1,000 sq. ft. per month. Organics are a little safer to use although inorganics generally are much cheaper and don't burn if properly watered in following application to dry turf. Urea and Uramite have been found to be fine sources, according to impartial tests conducted by agronomists at experiment stations.

Farrell in Hall of Fame

(Continued from page 44)

Championship, losing to Leo Diegel in the final, 6 and 4. Farrell was a PGA semi-finalist in 1933 and runnerup to Walter Hagen in the 1929 British Open. He was a member of the first Ryder Cup team in 1927 that beat the British, 9½ to 2½, and in 1929 and 1931 he also played in the international matches.

Farrell, summertime pro at Baltusrol, Springfield, N. J., and wintertime pro at the CC of Florida in Delray Beach, is the father of five children. One son, James serves as his assistant, and another son, Bill, is the New Jersey Open champion and plays the tour. A third son, John Jr., is assistant products manager for Colgate Palmolive Co. A daughter, Peggy, is a medical secretary and a second daughter, Kathy, is studying to be a nun.

Ed Oliver Fund

A full report on the various funds raised for Ed Oliver's family in recent months aren't available. A committee headed by James O'Keefe of the Western Golf Assn. has raised about \$10,000 for the education of the Oliver children. Florida golfers have contributed more than \$9,000 and tournament sponsors have turned over several thousand to the PGA for Ed's wife and children.

Get Seniors' Plaques

Illinois PGA Seniors recently presented plaques to Joe Graffis, Sr., Golfdom's publisher, Bud Binyon and Bob Lamkin for their services to golf over the years. Harry Adams made the presentations on behalf of the Seniors' organization.