

# 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-

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