

# Is Bent Grass Seed

## Bent

## Just

## Bent

## to You?

## Always

## Demand

## Native

## Grown

## Seed

## That Is

## Winter

## Hardy and

## Acclimated

## To Our

## Severe

## Northern

## and Eastern

## Climate

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ALL MY FIELDS OF BENT ARE HAND SOWN JUST LIKE ANY OTHER FARM CROP, AND NO FIELDS OF BENT ARE HARVESTED BY ME UNLESS THEY RUN 98% OR BETTER AS TO PURITY OF VARIETY.

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## AUTHORITY TELLS OF ASTORIA BENT

Chicago, Ill.—The creeping bent strain known as Astoria, due to the seed being harvested in the vicinity of Astoria, Ore., has made its initial appearance in this section on the greens of the new Rob Roy Country, to which it was supplied by George A. Davis, Inc. The course was built by Edward B. Dearie, Jr. The seed was sowed last fall, and came through the winter well. It had no water piped to it until spring.

Of this bent, G. R. Hyslop, head of the Farm Crops division of the Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station at Corvallis, Ore., says:

"I had seen this Bent on the lower land, and also how it encroached on other plants in upland pastures, and as it was a creeper and fine, dense and green, began mentioning it as a seed crop to seedsmen and others.

"In 1926 Engbretson Brothers of Astoria, Ore., asked for certification, and harvested about 30 to 35 acres. I certified it as Creeping Bent, and tried to call it *Agrostis stolonifera*, and the botanists and seed analysts all called it Rhode Island Bent (*Agrostis vulgaris*), which it closely resembles in head and seed characteristics. I knew it was a true creeper, and stuck to 'Creeping Bent,' and let the scientific name go for the time.

"In the summer, 1927, Dr. Helen M. Gilkey, of the Oregon Agricultural College Department of Botany, studied the plants in the fields and reached the conclusion that it was a creeper, and not a Rhode Island Bent. During that summer Dr. A. S. Hitchcock, the real grass authority in America, examined Dr. Gilkey's specimens and pronounced them a new variety of Creeping Bent grass of similar botanical rank to Seaside Bent. He classified them as New Astoria Creeping Bent—*Agrostis stolonifera Astoriana*.

"So that is the history to date.

### Plant Characteristics

"Now about the plant characteristics:

"Creeping Habit—The New Astoria Bent is also a vigorous stoloniferous creeper, but does not creep so rapidly. It also spreads underground by root stalks or rhizomes, making a deep, reinforced sod. The leaves of this Bent in a dense sod are somewhat upright, and I have observed no tendency for runners to come out on top of the turf.

"Texture—Both grasses are fine Bents. Seaside Bent is slightly wider leaved, and the internodes on rapidly creeping isolated plants are longer than those of the New Astoria Bent. This difference is much less pronounced where stands are dense, as in lawn or green.

"Both Bents are fine Bents, with the Astoria Bent somewhat the finer of the



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two bent grasses under consideration.

"Color—Both are a beautiful green color, with the Astoria Bent a somewhat darker shade.

"Seed Quality—Both lots are harvested from native stands. Seaside Bent is remarkably pure because it is harvested from wet overflow lands where other Bents fail to survive.

"The 'Astoria Bent' seems to get its remarkable freedom from mixture because of its resistance to wet, cold, sour soil conditions on uplands, and to its ability to crowd out and outlive other grasses. It equals the Seaside Bent in purity, and probably exceeds it in test weight. Down in low, wet sloughs in the Astoria section we cannot certify except as American mixed Bent because of the presence of Seaside Bent with the 'Astoria Bent.'

"Hardiness—Both Bents seem hardy and suited to sour soil conditions. Both grow on a wide range of soils."

## TWO ANNOUNCE INTERNATIONAL AS WEST COAST AGENTS

Los Angeles, Calif.—Jack Schaefer, general manager of International Agencies, announces their appointment as Western sales representative for the York Street Flax Thread Company's line of imported wrapping or pitched thread.

The Bronson Golf Shoe Company also has appointed the International Agencies

Western sales representatives for their line of golf shoes and sport shoes.

## DICKEY GETS OUT NEW DRAINAGE BOOK

Kansas City, Mo.—An interesting book on drainage for golf courses, other playfields and airports has been issued recently by the W. S. Dickey Clay Mfg. Co. It has much helpful drainage data and considerable testimony from golf course officials as to the value of proper drainage.

## ANNOUNCE GOLF CLUB HOUSE PLANNING BOOK

Wm. Helburn, Inc., 15 East 55th, will publish, in September, "Golf and Country Clubs," by Clifford Charles Wendehack. The advance subscription price is \$15. Judging from GOLFDOM'S correspondence, there is considerable need for such a book, as those who constitute the building committees of golf clubs contemplating new clubhouses hitherto have had no such a volume to help them or their architects.

Mr. Wendehack is a specialist in country clubhouse architecture, and has shown command of this subject not only in the clubhouses he has designed, but in many excellent articles he has written in "Golf Illustrated." The forthcoming volume will carry 157 illustrations of the country clubhouse work of prominent architects.



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## FOUNDATION OF SUCCESSFUL Club Management LIES IN FITTING POLICY

EVENTUALLY a successful golf club demonstrates that it has automatically selected its class of membership. Those who do not find the policies, membership and cost of the club to their liking drop out, thus leaving a group with a definite and reasonably unified idea of the club's principles of operation to carry on.

In determining from club presidents the proper policies of club operation, the above point was stressed as a factor to be given major consideration in the organization of a new club. In the case of the expensive and exclusive clubs careful membership selection is the controlling factor, and probably is the reason why they get along so well. They pick their members on a definite platform. The members know exactly what to expect. With clubs that start from scratch and are forced to feel their way along, paying according to the number and club spending activities of the members, the early history of the enterprises usually is marred by promises that are unwarranted by the financial set-up. The moving figures in the club are full of enthusiasm and the first boom days lead them to believe that everything will go

along at full steam. The inevitable let-down occurs and the resultant disappointing delays and wrangles drag on the club's progress for several years.

It is this period following the lively launching of a new golf enterprise that frequently ruins the clubs depending on sharp-shooting professional promoters for development. The promoters clean up on a long commission when things are going along speedily, but when the cream is skimmed off and the work gets harder they decamp, leaving the club officials holding the bag on financial commitments and responsibilities to members.

At no time does it harm the golf club officials who are not content with club progress to make an appraisal of what the club has to offer and consider the class of people to whom such features would appeal. There is no getting away from the fact that membership in the average first class metropolitan district club is a luxury and if the social and financial status of prospective members is such that they can not handle luxuries, they are ruled out from the start. If the club is founded on the basis of golf at low cost it must be made plain that there will be no attempt

to rival the costlier clubs of the district in clubhouse and course facilities and conditions.

### Watch Capital Investment

In the smaller cities the officials of the most successful clubs report that the happiest and most businesslike operation comes from keeping the costs to the point where the club can be more or less a community enterprise, wherein almost every fairly well-to-do family in the community can avail itself of membership. The small towns and the metropolitan districts alike suffer from too casual consideration of the capital investment aspect of the club. Before they know it, many clubs commit themselves to carrying charges that are almost in excess of income from initiation fees, transfer fees and similarly fairly-set annual items. The hastiness to build pretentious clubhouses all out of reason with a sane and foresighted financing plan was a feature of golf club operations a few years back. The whirlwind is being reaped. In a few cases the club officials are taking drastic steps and reducing the cost of memberships so new and live members can be attracted and a waiting list established. This has meant, in metropolitan districts, that the present price on some club memberships is \$1,000, whereas a year ago it was \$1,700.

This makes it tough on the man who suffers a loss of \$700 in the value of his membership, and is hard to understand on the surface, in view of the fact that the course and clubhouse are in better shape than ever before. But, at \$1,000, the membership is a quick asset; at \$1,700 it is frozen. Memberships, in the case to which this reference is made, are transferable only through the club and if there's no waiting list it is a long time before action is taken on memberships that are for sale. "Just Another Club?"

What goes a long way to make a golf club membership desirable is distinction. A group of fellows will start to organize a club in territory that is surrounded by other golf layouts and end up having "just another golf club." Then they may wonder why there is no sprightly urge to buy memberships in their club.

It is entirely possible to get adequate clubhouse facilities at reasonable expense for a golf club, and in the house interior and exterior have a notable degree of distinction and charm. But the rub seems to come heaviest when the women start employing their influence. Wives of members

will start a whispering campaign on the need of this, that and the other thing, "like Mugwumpus has," and the deluge is on. Capital investment in the shape of poorly-mated additions to the clubhouse begins to loom up to the point where the club seems to be permanently in debt. Rigid adherence to the original policy is the one safeguard.

### Fraternal Clubs

Much data has come to GOLFDOM on the vicissitudes of fraternal clubs. The information is too intimate and embarrassing to cite in detail, but the substance of the complaints is that the promoters are taking too much of a cut.

We have heard something of the promoters' side, too, and in the instances where the promotion has been legitimately handled there seems to be a lack of understanding of all details of the deal, which naturally produces a very unsatisfactory feeling of suspicion. In a private club such a suspicion that the enterprise is being unduly mulcted is the first and surest sign of impending doom. It takes heroic treatment to set things ship-shape again.

Of all fraternal and religious clubs with whose operations and histories GOLFDOM'S staff is acquainted, the Jewish clubs have the best records of substantial and steady development and we earnestly advise studying their methods on financing, operating and establishing membership unity. The members of these clubs generally are exacting in their demands for clubhouse service, and A1 course condition, but they realize that the high standards are attained and maintained only at considerable expense and take this expense as a matter of course. If kickers in all clubs could be made to understand that everything would run according to their wishes if the club's finances permitted there would be much smoother conduct of the club's work.

(This golf club survey to be continued.)

IT is well to remember when feeding putting greens or any other form of turf that what is a food when used with discretion may prove to be a poison if indiscriminately used. While nitrogen chiefly aids grasses, and potash and phosphates encourage clover, the continuous use of nitrogenous manures alone will eventually result in deterioration.

*From the Journal of the Golf Grunkpr. Assn., England.*



## AMERICAN AND OLD COUNTRY COURSE

## Design and Condition

## COMPARISONS FAVOR U. S. RESULTS

By BOBBY CRUICKSHANK\*

SINCE my return to Scotland for a holiday, and, incidentally, to make a try for the Open Championship, for which I never before competed, I have heard a good deal of discussion regarding the relative qualities of British and American golf links. The question, apparently, has been sharply raised by the discussions over the necessity or otherwise of the formation of a research committee into greenkeeping methods. In America, where I have been for eight years, there has been a scientific research committee long established, which has proved of inestimable value to the greenkeepers on the other side of the Atlantic. Fifteen years ago, there were scattered throughout the United States a few hundred golf courses. The word "greenkeeper" was not generally known. About seventy per cent of the courses were under the direct supervision of professionals, most of whom had received their training in the British Isles. In most cases the methods to which they had been accustomed proved very unsuccessful owing to the climate and soils of the United States being different from those of their native land. They were, to a large extent, handicapped because very little knowledge was to be obtained from the United States government agricultural experts on the best methods to pursue. Not more than ten per cent of these professionals would have been qualified as the greenkeeper of today. In those early days, although America was fortunate in being able to import good grass seed from foreign countries for use on their golf courses, they were lacking in knowledge of the proper care of turf. After the war golf in the United States began to make rapid strides, new courses multiplied so fast that it was impossible to secure enough men well versed in greenkeeping. The result was that men were drawn from farming and gardening, but it was soon observed that their methods of farming and gardening were not successful with turf on golf courses. Each in his own way en-

deavored to find other methods, and with so many working along different lines America gradually commenced to get information which tended to produce better turf. Following this came the institution of central authority and an enormous development in the skill of the golf course architects.

## Change in Course Management

Since the World War golf courses have sprung up by leaps and bounds and from a few hundred fifteen years ago they now number over 4,000. Out of the vast number of men selected to take charge of these courses, America has been able to produce a large number of successful men who are today well versed in greenkeeping. In the past few years greenkeeping has been placed in the position in which it properly belongs. While fifteen years ago seventy-five per cent of the golf courses were taken care of by professionals, today over eighty per cent are in charge of greenkeepers.

It requires from three to five years to produce turf that will stand the wear and tear of the players, and to a certain extent it also requires the same amount of time for a pupil to acquire sufficient knowledge to make him rightfully known as a greenkeeper. Officials of new courses should take this into consideration. I am of the opinion that the time is not far distant when the officials of a proposed new course who decide to hire a golf architect will, at the same time, hire an experienced greenkeeper who will be under the supervision of the officials during the building of the course, and divorced entirely from the architect.

## American Conditions Better

I am not, I trust, as a Scotsman returned from America, in any way seeking to stress what has been done and is being done on the other side of the Atlantic, and I am merely stating my views in reserved terms, and, I earnestly hope, in a helpful spirit, but I wish to stress that there are in America golf course architects who have the capacity to think out on the big idea and construct golf links on a bold scheme. Over

\*In *Golf Monthly*, Edinburgh.



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there they may not possess the historic ground, the links around which there is the glamor and the romance of tradition, but I do not hesitate to assert—and again I wish to be emphatic that I am making these observations for any good I may do to my native land—that American inland courses are ahead of those in Great Britain in general condition. Not that the inland courses here are poor, but the vagaries of the weather militate against clubs keeping them continually up to a consistent level of perfection. The Americans counter the intense summer heat with a plentiful supply of water on both fairways and greens. Members pay heavy annual subscriptions, and accordingly American clubs have greater financial resources when it comes to club upkeep. Much money is spent in laying water pipes over an entire course, but this is the only way to defeat the strong rays of the sun and the summer heat.

Generally speaking, the soil tends to the growth of clover on many American inland fairways. A number of workers are continually employed eradicating these weeds, with the result that you find, even during the hottest summer months, fairways superior to those in Britain. So seriously does the American golfing enthusiast take his pastime that he is prepared to pay, and pay dearly, to get the best out of his course.

## American Courses Tighter

Then again, the American fairways are much narrower than over here. I consider the British inland fairways are too wide. Rather that these did not give so much latitude to the erratic player but that they be lessened in breadth and improved in general condition.

There must be in inland courses on both sides of the Atlantic a more or less similarity in the condition of the bunkers. All are artificial, with probably the American sand a little heavier than that over here. British bunker trappings are, however, much too limited. All the American courses are tightly trapped, and with the narrow fairways, the slightest mistake pays the requisite penalty. Only on very few of the inland British courses is the system of bunkers adequate enough to test the abilities of first-class players. The British standard of amateur play in approaching the greens cannot equal the Americans until we get our home greens much more closely guarded.

The greens in America are smaller than on this side. They are also slower, and

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