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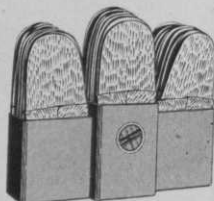
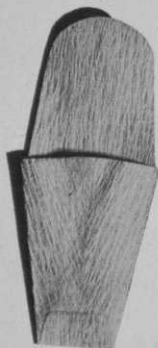
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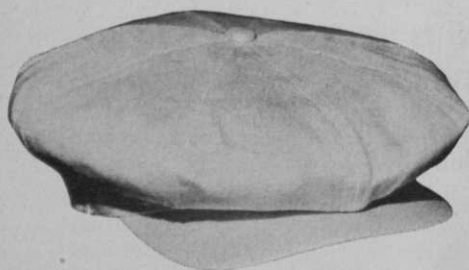
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been sentenced to the job for life.

Nursing the inexperienced officials and catering to their whims and often to their ignorance is very trying to the spirit of mortal. But too often when the superintendent comes right out and tells them man-to-man the facts of turf life they'll get some guy to work for less. The official who's had his feelings hurt by candor will be out of office before the inexperienced cheap new man lets the course deteriorate. The official whose vanity has been hurt won't care about having cost the club the services of a competent and conscientious man.

But the greenkeepers won't get very far blaming the other fellow before he examines his own record.

Salaries Not in Line

I've seen and heard of fewer raises of greenkeepers—and raises in line with increased cost of living and higher standard of results—than in any other industry.

Why is that? Club officials usually are fine, fair men. Your officials are businessmen often with plants of their own. They know what's going on in the working world. They know figures. If they haven't a fairly clear conception of the comparison between the superintendent of a manufacturing plant they own and the superintendent of the golf recreation plant at which they're officials, you can't altogether pass the buck for this neglect of their education.

In about 25 years of being quite closely associated with the golf course maintenance business I've continuously heard "economy, economy, economy."

Very few times have I heard officials say to superintendents "spend what the course needs." Even now, with waiting lists of membership applicants, bars and slot machines registering record takes and most private clubs having more cash reserve than they ever before had it is pretty near a sure bet that not one private course out of 30 will have spent on its course operations and fixed assets this year as much as it actually needs.

Is that altogether the fault of the club officials? Candidly I think it isn't.

And right at that point we bump into

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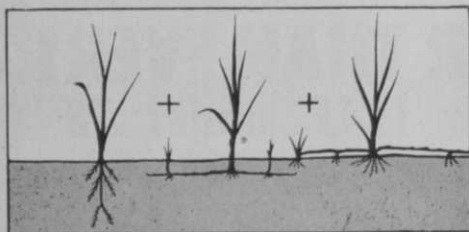
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something that the greenkeeper will have to change if the future of this business, profession or job—whatever you choose to call it—is to be attractive.

The greenkeepers will have to snap out of the generally established habit of thinking and talking in penny-pinching ways.

And that's a difficult thing to do.

Get the Money Picture

Now one thing I do see, after talking with heaven knows how many course superintendents, green-chairmen and other officials of clubs, is that personal and collective progress for the superintendents is going to require that you think and talk bigger about money. You know—or should know—your club's financial situation, what its reserves should be and what money now should be spent on the course as insurance if, as and when the present golden day in golf comes into the twilight that hits the golf business intermittently. Have you ever made up a budget that includes everything that should be bought and done? You might try it just to give your chairmen and boards the novelty of seeing what a difference there is between what they think would be a generous budget and what the course actually could use to good advantage without throwing money away.

It would be a tough job for many greenkeepers to make up a really complete budget, simply because they are so deeply into the habit of squeezing a dollar until the eagle sweats blood. Then they wonder why the chairman and board don't spontaneously get the idea the greenkeeper himself should have a substantial raise to send his kids through school and maintain a living standard that should be that of a responsible, highly trained specialist in the employ of an organization of gentlemen sportsmen.

Perhaps some of this sounds wildly theoretical, or listens like unwarranted criticism. It might sound impossible for a lot of you fellows to do as well by yourselves as you have done by your clubs.

So again, let's consider the possibilities as compared with past performance. You—and certainly the golfing public—do not vividly realize the extent of the miracle you have wrought, with God's help, in golf turf over the past 15 years. If there had been an improvement in golf instruction results to the same degree as the improvement in golf turf the average score of private club members would be in the mid-eighties at least instead of in the mid-nineties. There would have been sensational publicity granted to such an achievement by the pros and they would have deserved every bit of it.

But the results on the turf scorecard

Golfdom

show so slowly the member is eased into the improvement. He doesn't realize it has been made. Hence there has been no special comment on the phenomenal job that has been done in improving course condition. Even so, the job has been done, just as the job of getting members and officials to think of course management as an important job calling for important money, must be done.

Of late years you have read a lot about how faster balls and better clubs have improved the scoring of the stars. And it is a sure thing that improved equipment has done a lot. But certainly a great factor in this scoring improvement is the tremendous improvement in turf. Talk to older pro playing stars whose careers have covered two generations of notables. They'll tell you how much better the ball lies for fairway shots than it used to on the old weedy and frequently sparse turf. They'll have plenty to say about the billiard-table accuracy of today's greens compared with the putting surfaces of 15 or more years ago.

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Works on metal, alloy, plastic, wood, horn, bone, glass, etc. 25,000 r.p.m. AC or DC. Easy to handle. Weighs only 12 ozs.

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March, 1947

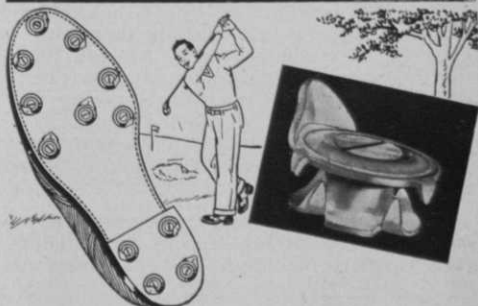
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have to devote more attention to performing miracles on the men who are club officials and members.

They are an exacting lot. They don't realize what you are up against in the problem of forcing the growth of a frequently harvested crop and trying to keep it healthy. You and they have the gap between you that the city fellow and the farmer have.

But these city fellows lately have begun to acquire a considerable, though sometimes reluctant respect for the man who is closely associated with manual labor. The unions have forced that, often by methods that have not been universally endorsed or entirely in public service. Nevertheless unions compelled action on wages, hours and job security. Eventually the new basis will be as much to the benefit of management and stockholders as to the union and non-union workers or there will be equalizing adjustments made.

It is bound to occur to club officials that greenkeepers have not received wage increases paralleling those of unionized trades. It must also get around that when a good club wants to replace a greenkeeper who is retiring or going into another field it has to hire a superintendent away from another club. Competent new men are not coming into the field any way nearly fast enough to supply the growing needs of golf. The average age of Greenkeeping Superintendents' association members is over 45. The school and on-the-job training of course superintendents under the GI Bill of Rights has not drawn young men into the study of course maintenance as specialists. The young fellows want pro-greenkeeper jobs where they have a better chance of making money.

The first class course superintendent today is a rare combination of artist, scientist, farmer, mechanic and businessman.

The businessman phase of his capacities must be emphasized in the future.

There are signs of the road opening for his recognition as a high-powered authority. I noticed the Jeep ad in Colliers headed "The greenkeepers best friend is the universal Jeep." That is a definite step in the right direction. Pros, bartenders, society queens and men of distinction have their fame and fortune added to by these testimonial ads which in many cases are testimony as phony as a \$7 bill. But the greenkeeper's testimonial means something. His standing with the public is based on integrity and performance. He would be the laughing-stock of his colleagues were he to lend or lease his name to the endorsement of something he wasn't absolutely sure from ample experience, warranted his approval. His influence already has been a dominant element in accounting for public acceptance of some fertilizers, mowing and watering equipment and weed-killers.

He has established a fine foundation for future status as an executive and authority. The program of this meeting, the programs of the short courses and the greenkeeper district association meetings show how far he has come as a qualified authority. Much of the technical material in these papers is too technical for the chairman and board members. Practically all of it will mean more financially to your clubs than it will mean to you.

What has got to be ahead for the course superintendent is more of an equalization between the clubs and superintendents of the financial benefits of progress in golf course maintenance. Either that, or there will be a shortage of personnel required for continuing the advance greenkeeping has made since it started to modernize itself when the Green Section was formed in 1921.

BENT GRASS GREENS

(Continued from page 38)

amount of impurities and low germination. A purity figure of 80 percent, and germination of 85 percent is not uncommon. Chaff is the principal impurity but weeds are present, including mouse-ear chickweed, yarrow, and sheep sorrel.

The colonial bents have gained in favor during recent years but have been used on fairways more than on greens. *Agrostis tenuis* includes Astoria and Highland strains grown in Oregon and Washington; Rhode Island bent, produced in New England; Prince Edward Island bent in Canada, and the Brown-top of New Zealand.

The colonial bent grasses have a more erect habit of growth than the creeping

bents because they spread principally by underground stems rather than surface creeping runners. *Agrostis tenuis* seems to be able to survive in drier soil than creeping bent. It is found growing wild on soils of higher elevation, while the creeping bents grow in areas which are subject to overflow. The Highland type receives its name from the fact that it grows at even higher elevations in Oregon than Astoria, and is said to withstand drier soil than the other types of bent. There is a so-called Dryland strain of colonial bent in New Zealand which is said to have similar characteristics to Highland.

The colonial bents are more susceptible to dollar spot than the seaside type of creeping bent. They are more immune to snow mold and brown patch than is seaside.

Some creeping bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*)

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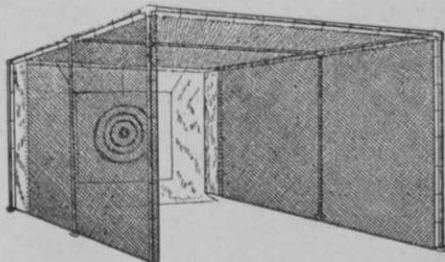


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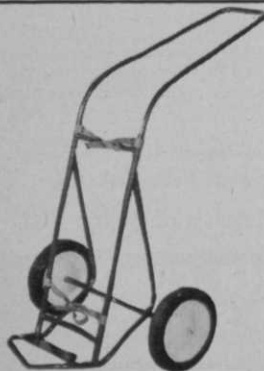
fera var. Compacta Hartm) is produced in the New Brunswick province of Canada, but the chief source is in Oregon and Washington. The fields are along the ocean and along the streams that flow into the Pacific ocean and are subject to overflow by high tides. The seed is sold commercially as seaside bent. "Cocoos," Triple A brand, and other trade names are used by some firms to distinguish their seed.

All seeds produced in Oregon and Washington are certified as to purity and germination by the Seed Testing Laboratory of the state of origin. The first 2 grades are designated by a blue and red tag respectively. Blue tag quality is the one to use on greens.

The seeding rate customarily used for colonial and seaside bent does not exceed 3 pounds per 1000 square feet. This rate is ample to give a good coverage of grass provided the grass is seeded into a firm but mellow seed bed, and that the seed is not imbedded too deep.

3 Strains of Velvet

There are three commercial strains of velvet bent; one was selected by the Green Section and was named Piper velvet in honor of Dr. Piper. Dr. De France and his co-workers at Rhode Island have done more experimental work with it, and with other velvet bents, than anybody else in this country, or elsewhere. They have isolated superior strains, have succeeded in harvesting some seed, and have induced local farmers to produce seed. Kernwood is a velvet bent selection made by Mitchell at the Kernwood club in Salem, Mass. Sod of it is produced in New Hampshire and has been used to sod a number of golf greens in the New England and New York area. Raritan is a selection of velvet made by Dr. Howard Sprague when he was at the New Jersey station. It is said to be a good seed producer and makes an excellent turf. Some seed was produced commercially before the war and it has been said



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that production will be resumed again.

Velvet bent is the last word in fine turf. No other grass can compare with it in that respect. The texture resembles a top quality Persian rug. There are some excellent greens of velvet bent in Cape Cod, especially at Hyannisport, which is a seaside course. The summer temperatures are mild, and the dew is heavy. The principal drawback to velvet bent is the fact that it has poor recuperative powers to stage a come-back after it is damaged by scald or from any other cause. It becomes matted with age and starts to develop a sickly yellow chlorotic color during cool wet spells. In extreme cases the turf dies and then clover gets bad. The use of pure velvet bent grass, especially outside of the coastal area of New England, is a hazardous undertaking until more is known about its care, especially with respect to mat formation and chlorosis.

Velvet in Mixture

One of the big possibilities for the use of velvet bent seed is to produce a synthetic seed mixture for those who prefer mixed bent greens. A mixture similar to the one imported from Germany can be made by using a mixture of velvet bent, seaside, and colonial bent either as Astoria, Brown top or Rhode Island. Not more than 10 to 15 percent each of velvet and seaside bent should be needed and the balance of 70 to 75 percent should be colonial.

Good stands of pure Raritan velvet have been obtained with a seeding rate not in excess of 1 pound per 1000 square feet. That in part offsets its high cost per pound.

Some greens of mixed German bent have a higher percentage of velvet bent in them than others. The reason is probably in the topdressing and fertilization. Velvet bent needs less nitrogen than creeping or colonial bent and is very sensitive to topdressing. Lower rates of nitrogen and light topdressing (never over 1/2 yard to 5000 square feet) tend to favor the velvet at the expense of the other grasses and the reverse makes the creeping bents develop at the expense of the velvet bent.

Washington and Metropolitan strains were the best of the original creeping bents developed for vegetative planting. Metropolitan did not live up to original expectations. Wm. Keating at Des Moines still has very fine greens of this grass but it has not found general favor. There are many fine greens of Washington bent. They are most numerous in the Middle West. Washington bent makes a very tight turf, and withstands play when greens are wet better than the seeded bents now available. It is more immune to brownpatch than Metropolitan but is susceptible to dollarspot

March, 1947

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WITH ALL CLUBS FROM TEE TO GREEN**

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Plugged into an A-C circuit like a clock or radio, the Adams Timer puts a miniature club through complete golf swings in which the action of the club is synchronized with audible signals which beat out the rhythmic pattern of the expert swing. The pupil faces the Timer and swings his own club in the manner of the miniature club, keeping strict time to the rhythmic beat of the Timer signals.

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From your own experience you know how difficult it is to get your pupils to "feel" proper rhythm and timing. When the Adams Golf Swing Timer is used to guide "Homework", much as a musician uses a metronome, the pupil is enabled to make more effective use of what you have taught him.

6" x 9" x 10", as illustrated, with leather handle, electric cord, switch and plug. 115 Volt, 60 Cycle, Alternating Current.

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which is its worst enemy. The dollarspot can be prevented by proper management and the regular use of preventative treatments with fungicide. Washington is slow to green up in the spring, and goes off color with the first frost in the fall. Everything considered its performance has been good over a span of 25 years.

Some of the newer selections of creeping bent are very promising. They are among the numbered strains which were tested on the pie or experimental greens located at strategic spots around the country. The best ones include C1, C15, C17 and C29. The commercial strain known as Old Orchard received a high rating. The C1 which is now called Arlington made its best showing in the region from Kansas City across through St. Louis, Louisville, Cincinnati, etc., because of its ability to withstand the hot and humid summer weather. It is not palatable to cut worms, chinch bugs, etc., and is not subject to serious injury by them. C15 rated high partly because of its ability to start growth early in the spring and to stay green in the fall long after other grasses have turned brown. This may be an advantage in some places.

The most promising development with vegetative plantings is the use of mixtures. The grasses selected must be of similar

color and growth habit so they will blend together. The strains C1, C19 and C27 have performed well in mixtures. The combination of all 3, and a mixture of C1 and C19, have made excellent turf on the greens at Fairfax in Virginia. The course is owned by John Conley and the Supt. in charge is Wm. Glover. These mixtures were used on 2 greens when the first 9 was built before the war. The combination of all 3 was selected for the second nine when the greens were constructed in 1946. The grasses are grown separately in rows in the nursery and are mixed as the stolons are shredded for planting. The mixture contains an equal amount, or one-third of each strain.

Shredded Stolons Quicker Producers

For vegetative planting, shredded stolons produced turf quicker than cut ones in a trial at Washington, and 1 yard of top-dressing to 5000 sq. ft. of green was the right amount to use. The usual planting ratio is 1 to 10, although 1 to 6 or 7 gives quicker coverage. These ratios signify that the stolons from one square foot of nursery are used to cover 10, or 6 to 7, sq. ft. of planting area.

There are many good bent grasses. Some of them are mixed German greens, others are seaside, a few are colonial, and the balance are the vegetative strains. The seaside greens of West Texas, California and the Pacific Coast region always seem better than the same grass elsewhere. The days there are hot, but the humidity is low and rain is negligible. The nights are cooler because of the altitude. But where the rainfall and humidity are high seaside does not always do as well as the better vegetative strains. The colonial types have not been used as much, but there are good greens of it, especially in the New England area, and in the eastern provinces of Canada.

Club officials sometimes think a local bent found on the course, or nearby, should be used. They believe it is better suited to local soil and climate. The local grass may behave differently when placed under close mowing, and develop undesirable features. The experimental test greens established by the Green Section were scattered over the entire United States. The best grasses rated near the top everywhere, and the poor ones stayed at the bottom. The thing to do is to make the choice from the types of bent grass mentioned above, and select one which has given a good account of itself in the locality where it is to be seeded or planted.

"WILGRO" BRAND FERTILIZER



Analysis 5-10-5 • Total Plant Food 20%
A combination of organic and chemical
plant food materials for the development
of strong, healthy greens and fairways.



Fertilizer Division • CHICAGO
A few dealer franchises available