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Turfgrass Questions

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banking them to the limit for "good golf's sake." I use sand finer than "sharp" or concrete sand. I do this out of consideration for my greens mowers which wear very fast with coarse sand. What grade or density sand do you recommend to meet these conditions?

A. Your's is a difficult problem. It is useless to go to a coarse sand because of your mowers, and for player reasons. Pebbles on the green do not help the ball to roll true.

Have you considered planting a few clumps of bunch grasses in or near the traps to break the force of the wind? I have seen this done to good advantage. Broom sedge (*Andropogna virginicus*) is a native and grows well under poverty conditions. Another grass is Indian grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*) also a native.

Groups of bunch grasses can be very attractive, break the monotony of an expanse of sand and reduce wind erosion. Occasionally, a ball will come to rest in or near a clump which may not please the player but if you explain your problem to the membership I feel reasonably certain members will understand and will go along with you.

Q. At what height should fairways be cut in Apr.-June, and July-Sept.? (Ky)

A. Height of cut on fairways will vary slightly according to the kind(s) of grass present. For creeping bent and Bermuda — 1/2 in.; for bluegrass fescue — 7/8 to 1 1/4 in.

These suggested heights mean little because

the type of mower used will affect the way the grass is cut, even when all are set the same. Well fed grass will tolerate closer mowing than starved turf. Terrain will affect height if cut. Longer grass often is demanded on steeply sloping fairways to reduce roll of ball. Generally speaking, the height of cut should be the same the year around.

Q. We have three greens which are very hard, full of clay, and fine sand. Is there any way to repair them without rebuilding? (Ky.)

A. It is a long slow process to repair and change soil in a green without rebuilding, but it can be done. It will take regular aerifying and the use of a suitable topdressing material used generously and frequently. This does not mean that the green will be as satisfactory as though it had been rebuilt. It keeps it in play and minimizes annoyance of temporary greens. A change of grass during the process might be in order. This should be carefully considered.

Q. October, 1955, Golfdom stated that 2-4-D will weaken bent grass. For what types of weeds and when can 2-4-D be used on greens? What is a good herbicide for crowfoot? Craig Herbicide #1 for crowfoot and crabgrass has been suggested. What is its potential? (Ky.)

A. 2,4-D has little or no place on greens except under very unusual circumstances. From what I have seen my advice is to use disodium methyl arsonate for crowfoot and crabgrass on greens. DSMA has good potential. Phenyl mercury plus 2,4-D has been used but it must be handled with care and precision. Pre-emergence chemicals are not recommended on greens.



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