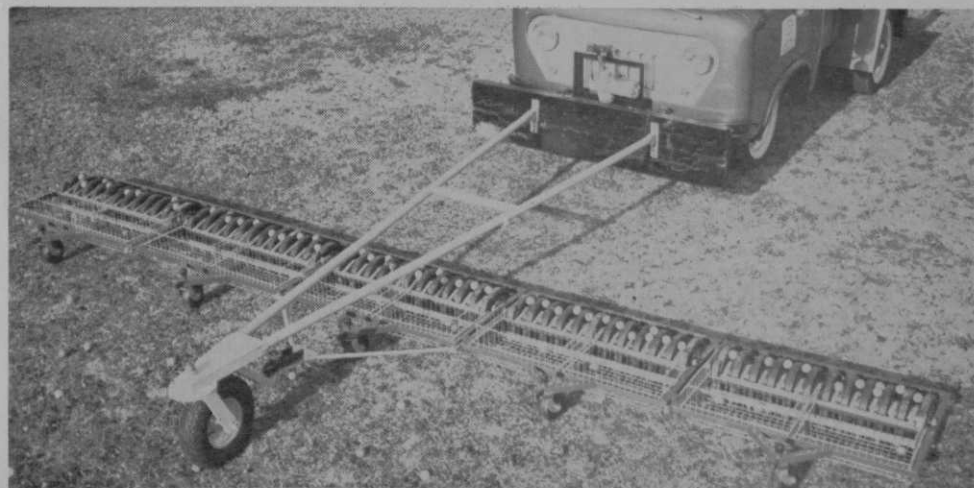




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Clubs, Designer Cooperate

Granberg says that he has always found that people responsible for interior design at clubs are very easy to work with. When asked, however, about committees deciding on decor, he said: "I'm reminded of the old joke about the camel. It is a beast that looks as if it was designed by a committee." Most clubs committees, though, he says, are quite happy to approve wholeheartedly what a designer does, because they know it has a pleasing overall effect. He tells of how after decorating the Silver Lake GC in Orland Park, Ill., there was a rather severe fire in the clubhouse several years later. "They liked the original decor so much," Granberg recalls, "they had us duplicate it exactly."

National Golf Day Telecast

The National Golf Day "Round of the Champions" between Bob Nichols, 1964 PGA champion, and Ken Venturi, last year's Open winner, will be telecast on May 31 at 5 p.m., E.D.S.T., over the NBC network. This is the first time this match is being shown on TV. The color telecast will come direct from Laurel Valley GC, Ligonier, Pa. and is to be sponsored by Oldsmobile division of General Motors.

Any Golfer who takes part in National Golf Day can get his certified round in between May 15 and 31.

PGA Now in Palm Beach

The official address of the PGA is Palm Beach Gardens, Box 12458, Lake Park, Fla., 33403. The telephone is 848-9716 — Area Code 305. The PGA moved from Dunedin late last month.

USGA Membership Up

Membership in the USGA has risen for the 19th consecutive year to a record high of 3,030 clubs and courses. This is a gain of 125 members over last year. Since 1946 the number of USGA member clubs has more than tripled.

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Grau's Answers

(Continued from page 90)

prior to presentation and would have to prepare the quiz in advance. The quiz would be rapid-fire and penetrating. It would minimize the confused mutterings in the aisles and the halls such as, "What did he say?"; "What did he mean?". *Pre-conference editing of papers is as important as pre-publication editing.*

Chairmen of committees traditionally receive honors on behalf of all the members. For the educational conference, we name Don Figurella and John Spodnik to receive the "Grau Award" for imagination and vision in developing and executing a first rate conference. The pattern set at Cleveland has provided guidelines for future successes, and for the continued elevation of the professional standing of all GCSA members.

Which Is Best?

Q. Toronto (C-15) bent stolons have been recommended for the greens on our new course. We thought that there was only one Toronto bent. Now it seems that there are at least four

or five types of Toronto. How will we know if we get the right one (the good one?) (Illinois)

A. Diligent search has failed to reveal a satisfactory answer to your question. After talking to representatives of two large firms that grow and sell Toronto (and other) stolons, it seems that both have the "good Toronto." Maybe they do. Both are sincere and both are sensitive to the image they have built in the turfgrass industry through honest dealings and careful nursery stolon management.

My advice is to avoid any Toronto stolons that have been grown under indifferent management that has permitted seed to ripen. Purchase from reputable growers (nurseries) whose interest is in selling "the best".

Apparently some of the "poor Toronto" came from golf course nurseries where seedheads formed and caused contamination. This is a "live" issue and you may be sure we will keep searching until we are satisfied that we have located the "good Toronto."

Non-Creepers Creep

Q. We planted our fairways to Colonial bentgrass seed several years ago. We have been sparing with water to discourage poa annua. Now we have a high percentage of creeping bents which require different management. We thought that Colonial bents were non-creepers. Can you explain this to us?

A. Studies at Penn State and elsewhere show that domestic-grown Colonial bents (Astoria

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and Highland) contain small percentages of creeping types which tend to spread and dominate. Unfortunately, most of the creepers do not form firm fairway turf but tend to be matted or fluffy. It seems to be logical that, if you are going to get creeping bent no matter what you plant, why not go directly to a good creeper? The best creeping bent from seed today is Penncross. This grass seed must carry the Certified Blue Tag, otherwise, it may not be Penncross but an inferior seed.

Some contend that Penncross in fairways will cause nothing but trouble through thatch formation. With the excellent thatch-destroying equipment and know-how that we have today, this should be the least of your worries.

Seaside creeping bent seed is being included in many new bent fairways. It is inferior to Blue Tag Certified Penncross but is a strong creeper. It, too, can be matted thatched.

Many tests and practical applications show Arlington (C-1) creeping bent stolons to be outstanding on fairways.

In general, creeping bents seem to be more resistant to poa annua than the colonial bents. This whole subject deserves further exploration and discussion.

Bluegrass-Fescue Future

Q. On "QUIZ THE EXPERTS," a panel at Cleveland, you used the word, "dubious" in answer to the question, "What is the future of bluegrass and fescue on irrigated fairways in the Northeast?" Would you enlarge a bit on your one-word answer? (Connecticut)

A. All too often, when a club spends \$100,000 or so for a modern irrigation system, the members feel that they aren't getting their money's worth unless they can see the water flying through the air. Many supts. tell me that they had good bluegrass-fescue fairways until they were forced to water far more than they knew they should. The first signs of overwatering are clover and poa. Supts. also tell me that once poa comes in, they *must* manage to hold the poa. When this program is started it is the beginning of the end — with the end result solid poa.

If members and green committees would let supts. do their jobs without agronomic direction, I'm sure that we would use less water and could hold bluegrass-fescue fairways more satisfactorily.

Irrigation, when needed, is wonderful. Irrigation, when not needed, is an expensive and damaging plaything.

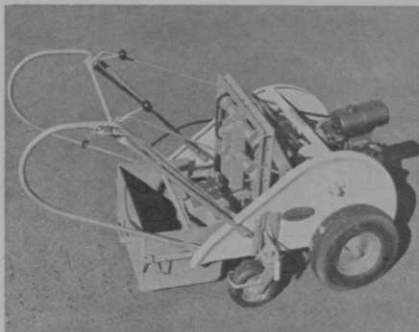
Smooth Green Surfaces

Q. We would like to plant our greens in such a way that we can get started with smooth surfaces that are not full of wheel tracks and footprints that are so expensive to topdress out. What do you suggest? (Virginia)

A. The first step is to firm the greens to avoid uneven settling. This is done by harrowing, dragging, heavy watering — anything to achieve settling. Oldtimers used to "tread" the soil firm, using many men who shuffled sideways,

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moving only a shoe's width at each shuffle.

If the green is to be seeded, I strongly recommend hydroseeding (seed, fertilizer, limestone — all mixed in a water slurry). If the green is to be stolonized or sprigged, I urge consideration of hydromulching (stolons or sprigs mixed in water slurry with paper pulp as a mulch).

Both methods minimize footprints and wheel-tracks on the putting surface since nozzles are directed and controlled from the collars.

Your local supplier can secure information on hydroseeders and hydromulchers.

16mm Rental Films Available from USGA

Available for rental from the USGA Golf House Film Library, 40 E. 38th St., New York, N. Y. 10016 are several 16mm films. Featuring dramatizations of the rules of golf, as well as entertainment, history and travel, the films range in length from 14 minutes to 39 minutes. Most of the films are in full color and all have sound tracks. Two of the newest films are: "The Open: The Comeback of Ken Venturi" (32 min.) and "Famous Golf Courses: Pinehurst No. 2" (17 min.).

262 at PGA School

A total of 262 assistant pros was graduated from the PGA's ninth business school held in Clearwater, Fla. in January. Don E. Fischesser, Evansville (Ind.) CC, and Emil Beck, Black River CC, Port Huron, Mich., were the school coordinators. The five-day school term was climaxed by a banquet at which graduation certificates were presented. More than 20 subjects were taught at the school.



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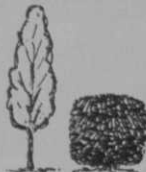
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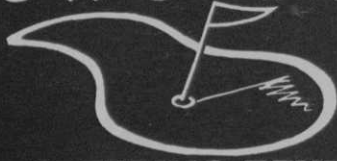


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Pin Placements

(Continued from page 94)

pros and amateurs about the pin placements during the Pro-Am. Even so, the best putters had few problems, as evidenced by Arnold Palmer's course record round of 65. However, the tournament committee then delegated my father to set the pins. Since he had planned the course, it was felt that he should decide the pin positions in conformity with what was intended in the design. The next four days the pins were set in different locations each day. The scores were quite good, even on this long, difficult layout.

At Pebble Beach in late January, the pins were placed from a different point of view. Both Pebble Beach and Cypress Point courses, which were designed in the early golf period in this country, have noticeably smaller greens than modern courses. Although the pins are moved from day to day, it is very difficult to find pin positions of great variation.

When we recently remodeled the 8th green at Cypress Point we found a putting surface of only 3500 sq. ft. Modern putting surfaces average 7500 sq. ft. or more per green. On many greens on the older courses the player rarely has a putt of more than 20 to 25 feet from anywhere on the green. On many of the greens on these courses, the player feels that if he hits the green, he has a good chance for one putt. This does not afford great flexibility and causes traffic problems. During a tournament in wet weather, such as the Crosby, spike marks and scuff marks are a real problem on small greens.

On the third day of the Crosby, the 17th green of Pebble Beach had the pin in the back left corner. The tee was also all the way back making a minimum 220 yd. carry. That day the wind blew as much as 45 miles an hour and even Jack Nicklaus with a full driver was short of the green, let alone the pin area. Although the pin setter may not have been aware that the wind would blow that strong, it was clear early in the morning that the wind was going to be blowing all day. Pin placement should be consistent with tee placement in such circumstances.