

# From Sand To Bent Greens

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**A**FTER searching the pages of the "Greenkeeper" and getting a lot of valued information from our brother greenkeepers, if you will permit me space I will endeavor to give you just an outline of the history of our course.

I came to this club four years ago on February 13th, 1923, and at that time we were playing sand greens, forty feet in diameter, which had been plowed out with a turning plow, oiled and sanded. As our readers will readily see this put the base from four to six inches under surface. So after every rain the only thing to do was to take all our men, buckets and a large pump off a threshing machine tank and bale the greens out, getting them ready for play—and oh, such play!

So the first thing we did was to employ trams, wagons and extra men and fill the old greens up to surface, roll, oil, tamp and resand, which brought them up to good condition or as good as a sand green can be made. In June 1925, we had the State meet at our Club and by this time we had by the use of a railroad rail and road grader sand greens that were pronounced the best in the middle west. In fact the Golfers Magazine wrote the chairman of our committee for an article on sand greens which he willingly contributed.

## *Planting Columbia Bent in Kansas*

On the face of this and a successful tournament the President of our club and chairman of our committee got their heads together and that fall we planted nine grass greens to Columbia bent stolons. They were covering the ground by cold weather, in fact we mowed them all twice. These first nine greens we built by donation, so after they started through the winter so well we began excavating January first, 1926 for the second nine, planting the first three on March 16, and two a day each succeeding day until finished. We played the first nine or fall planting April 15th, and the spring planting or second nine we opened July 4th. They played perfectly and I want to add that Crestview was happy over what we had achieved. We have produced in this short period of time such a wonderful turf that we have played it all winter and on February 22nd, we had a play equal to July 4th. My greens stood up well and look fine.

## *Good Care Brings Results*

As to care all summer I top dressed with a mixture 50 per cent sharp sand, 25 per cent black dirt, 25 per

cent well rotted dairy manure. Every fifteen days giving them 10 pounds Ammo-Phos per thousand square feet. July 1st, and September 1st, then I used roller driven greens mowers cutting  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch high, and we raised our mowers to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch late in the fall when the grass began to get down to the ground. Our turf and putting surface is perfect now at this season.

Beginning March 1st or just as soon as the frost is out of the ground I am going to begin with five pounds Ammo-Phos per 1000 square feet and three pounds every thirty days thereafter, following always with our old schedule of top dressings. In applying Ammo-Phos we find it best to dissolve enough for one thousand feet in fifty gallons of water, spray it on with sprinkling cans then water it in well, and the results are wonderful.

However, this spring I am going to try an Erickson Hydraulic spray before the hot weather strikes us, as we think it will save us a great deal of money in time and labor. Our club believes that we have the best greens in the middle west of their age. Would like to give you complete history of their construction in detail but space will not permit at this time.

Our worst enemy is brown patch in the Dollar form. I always catch it when it first appears and have had very little trouble mastering it with Uspulun. Last fall was a very bad fall for brown patch in Kansas and we greenkeepers who had Columbia bent had to almost sleep with our greens.

## *Full Co-Operation of Crestview Officials*

I want to add in closing that our green chairman for twenty-five and twenty-six spent his boyhood in caddying and is a practical man. He surely has been of great help to me and to the club. He should be in the game along with us. Our club has made no mistake in selecting him as their President. Frank Coleman is always ready to aid us financially or any other way when he thinks one of our greens is going wrong. We cannot say too much in his praise. He is always with the greenkeeper.