

Experimenting with Bent

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UPON my arrival at the Calumet C. C. in the spring of 1921, it was decided to remodel and rebuild the golf course which was at that time very uninteresting. To do this it was necessary to construct eighteen new greens and thirty new tees, as well as one hundred and thirty traps and bunkers, the greens and tees being large. The club has never regretted the change as Calumet is now rated among the best in the country.

In the fall of 1921, we fertilized and top-dressed the fairways the top-dressing being applied with a manure spreader and brushed in. The fairways were also seeded with a Kentucky drill, crossed three ways. The improvement was very noticeable.

Built Up Tiled Greens

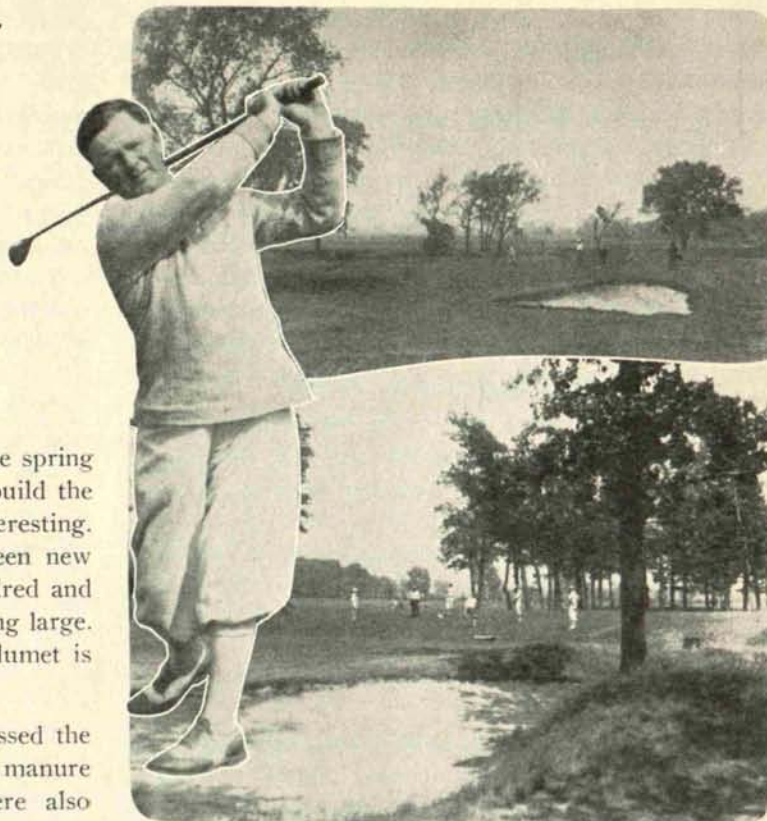
With the exception of a few very natural holes and greens the greens are built up. They are all tiled with the Herring-bone pattern, as I believe every green should be tiled, irrespective of its conditions. The greens are undulating with this effect not carried to the extreme as the wave is slight. In designing a green, the eye effect is to be the most considered.

From Red Top and Fescue to Bent

The majority of the greens were seeded with Red-top and Fescue. When the club moved from its old location, it brought along two small bent greens out of which I was able to get one good green. This green has vegetated to such an extent that I now have two acres of bent nurseries, and by plugging and patching wherever I saw clover or chickweed the greens have become practically all bent, this being taken from the fringe and outskirts of the original bent green.

Believes in Sodding Bent

I can not see the practicability of the vegetative method. I am a firm believer in the sodding method to grow a bent green. I can take a rake to my greens and use it in any way; if you can do this you have a first class putting green. There is no sinking on my greens.



The Calumet Country Club Course. Left, George P. Knox. Upper, Number 11 Green. Lower, Number 12 on a Busy Day

Experimental Planting

My experiment on my number eighteen green might be of interest to you. Late in the fall, the middle of September four years ago, I seeded this green with Fescue and Red-top. A month later I put grooves thru this green two feet apart in which I put some of my bent chopped up. I covered it and did not notice any signs of the bent until the following July. Today this green is one solid mass of healthy bent. I have been asked to send this strain to Washington for an analysis and a name but I consider this unnecessary as I call it the Calumet strain and the members the Knox strain. This bent is not susceptible to Brown Patch although I had a little that I quickly got rid of. I call it a good old fashioned Carpet Bent.

I have this Bent in some of my tees. I believe a tee should be large and irregular as I do not like a straight line on a golf course be it tee or putting green.

Mushroom soil is a good top-dress in the fall and sulphate or Ammo-phos in the summer. For the best results top-dress frequently.

Get a good strain of bent, the kind most suited to your particular location, and build a nursery. Take plugs from your nursery for the greens eradicating the weeds. In time you will notice, as I did, that it will run into your fairways and approaches.