

# Spring Seeding

YOU can't for the life of you think of a golf course without thinking of *grass*. The two are inseparable. Long expanses of thick, luxuriant grass is one of the things that makes golf popular. It is the very "foundation" of the sport. No wonder then that making and keeping good grass on a golf course calls for the best of talent and entitles the greenkeeper to regard his task as a real science.

The immediate problem of the greenkeeper is the conditioning of his course for spring play. It is our experience that 70 per cent of the northern clubs seed in the fall and only 30 per cent in the spring. That situation is accounted for from the fact that fall seeding has become accepted as best from a results standpoint.

Grass from fall seeding has two distinct advantages. It takes deeper root and stools or tillers out, thus fortifying itself against adversity. The second and very important advantage is that weeds are combatted more effectively by fall seeding. They come up in the spring full of ginger but find healthy vigorous grass has had several months' head start and is occupying the available space.

Spring seeding gives these pests greater opportunity to flourish, but from present indications more clubs than usual will be *forced* to do spring seeding this year. Unfavorable weather was abundant last fall and scores of new and established clubs were compelled to lay aside their seeding plans. Few will consent to wait until next fall but rather will speculate on spring sowing.

## *How Redtop Discourages Spring Weeds*

Authorities tell us that about 20 per cent more seed should be sowed in the spring than in the fall because of the greater hazard. It has been generally contended that in the New England States spring sowing is preferable but an able informant at Amherst, Massachusetts, expresses himself as follows: "I much prefer fall seeding to spring seeding in New England. I would use exactly the same grasses for either sowing, spring or fall, except that in the spring seeding I would add at least 20 per cent more Redtop than I used in the fall. I am a great believer in the use of Redtop to help check the weeds. Of course extensively used it is not desirable."

Regardless of what the consensus of opinion and your own conviction in the matter may be, there will always be a liberal sowing of seed during the spring months. Psychologically if not practically spring is sowing time. It seems only proper to take advantage of the period when everything planted or dormant seems to fairly spring out

of the ground. This undeniable tendency plus a carry-over of frustrated or incompleated plans of last fall, means there will be considerable seed sowed on golf courses this spring.

## *The Best Time to Spring Seed*

There remains then the important question *when*. One experienced architect says: "If seeding must be done in the spring, I find it can be very well done especially for fairways if the seed is sown on the ground when it is in a honey comb condition and not rolled or raked in." That of course applies to resowing thin turf or original seeding on new ground that was put in proper condition the previous fall. Where only the rough grading has been done and the top soil is not smooth and fine it is better to wait until the frost is out of the ground and the soil readily friable. Every day counts in spring sowing because the grass should have every opportunity to become established before the usual period of hot, dry weather.

## *Cool Summer Predicted in Northern States*

Of course if we are to swallow the predictions of some weather prognosticators the summer of 1927 will be extremely cool. If these predictions come true then we may expect a very wonderful summer for grass and spring seeding will set a record for turf production. Those who wish to consider further the forewarning of two disagreeing weather critics should buy a copy of January "System." Weather probabilities for the year are very interestingly discussed. There is good cause to choose seed carefully for sowing at any time of the year but especially in the spring.

## *Pure Seed First Consideration*

Weeds never need encouragement but during the period of rainy weather they make surprising headway especially if sowed in impure seed. Beat them at their own game by sowing pure vigorously growing grasses. This no doubt is the thought behind the Amherst suggestion that Redtop be favored in a Spring seeding. In other words if a four part Blue Grass to one part Redtop fairway mixture is used for fall make it three to one for spring. We believe this suggestion to have considerable merit. Redtop germinates quickly and may be obtained practically weedless. This year because of the very low price German Bent will be used freely on fairways. It grows very quickly and will give weeds no cause for comfort.—*Courtesy of O. M. Scott and Sons Company, Marysville, Ohio.*