



What About the Tariff?

New schedule shows 400 per cent increase in tariff on bent grasses. Will increase cost to golf clubs.

By JOHN MORLEY, President
National Association of Greenkeepers of America

ON TUESDAY, May 7, the proposed new tariff schedule was reported out of the House committee on Ways and Means, and while it contained no surprises it did contain the expected advances. In order that the reader may easily compare the present duty and those under the proposed new schedule they are tabulated as follows:

Articles	Present Duty	Proposed Dpty
Bent grass (all species)	2c	10c
Orchardgrass	2c	5c
Fescues (all species)	2c	2c
Rough Stalk Meadowgrass	2c	2c
Wood Meadowgrass	2c	2c
Ryegrass (all species)	2c	2c
White Clover	3c	5c

All other grass seeds not specially provided for 2c per pound.

From the above tabulation it is easy to deduct that the new schedule will have more effect on the price of bent than any other seed. This advance is undoubtedly due to the strong propoganda from our own states of Washington and Oregon.

Following is the information on bent grass furnished to the Tariff Commission by the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture.

BENT GRASS				
Imports:	1921-22	1922-23	1923-24	1924-25
Pounds	96,000	106,000	348,000	258,000
		1925-26	1926-27	1927-28
Pounds		344,000	537,000	554,000

Production: (Domestic)
150,000 pounds (official estimate) in Washington and Oregon in 1928. Smaller quantity estimated for 1929. No figures obtainable for New England, but it is officially stated that the Department of Agriculture had difficulty in obtaining a few pounds for experimental purposes; the presumption in New England is small or negligible.

Prices: Wholesale per 100 pounds at Atlantic Seaboard points, spring of year

1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928
\$225	\$125	\$55	\$115	\$55	\$50

Prices from Mr. Edler, Hay, Feed and Seed Division, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The new tariff is estimated to go into effect some time this summer so that the Fall buyers of bentgrass will pay for this additional duty.

As there are a great many wholesalers who are willing to book orders now for fall shipment on stocks already in this country and upon which only the old duty was paid it is suggested that the buyers of bent cover their Fall needs at the present time.

The newspaper correspondents from Wash-

ington tell us that the President is none too pleased with the advance on some of the items holding that some of the advances are outside of what could be strictly termed "limited increases."

Bentgrass being of such little importance outside of the golf world perhaps no one other than those interested in golf would feel moved to voice a disapproval of this duty increase, yet someone should voice a disapproval because the domestic production of bent is in no way large enough to take care of the domestic consumption. Besides this there is every reason to suppose that the Pacific coast bent is not as

United States Tariff Commission
8th and E. Streets N. W.
WASHINGTON

Mr. John Morley
Chairman, Committee on Standards,
National Association of Greenkeepers of America
2248 Selma Avenue
Youngstown, Ohio.

Dear Sir:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of April 17 with respect to the tariff duty on bent grass seeds.

The Tariff Commission does not recommend rates on different commodities to the Ways and Means Committee, but we have cooperated with the Committee by making available to the Committee such information as we have on the various subjects.

It would be appreciated, therefore, if you would send the Commission any information and statistical data that have a bearing on the tariff problem of bent grass.

Very truly yours,

O. A. Juve, Chief,
Division of Agricultural

Products and Provisions.

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adaptable to some of our eastern conditions as the seed from Prince Edward Island and South Germany.

The next largest increase is that of orchardgrass from two to five cents; but as very little orchardgrass is used by golf clubs except for "rough" purposes, this advance will play little or no part.

On most of the important grasses such as fescue and rough stalk meadowgrass the duty remains unchanged. We therefore will not see higher markets on these because of increased duty.