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tributes to the potential thatch and puffines problem.

The mowing frequency of bent will be greater than for other grasses. It will probably average about ½ to 1 more mowing per week than other cool season grass fairways. Thatch is a potential problem. But, if the grass is mowed frequently, particularly when growing vigorously, and fertility is not excessive, thatch formation can be controlled.

Weed control is usually less of a problem with creeping bents. Even at one half inch they are very competitive with most weeds. By rapidly healing divots and other injuries, weed invasion is minimized. However, in some areas, the fungicide bill may be higher than that of other cool season grasses. Although creeping bents cut at one half inch or more are much less subject to disease than the putting green bent, they may still require a little more protection than fairways of the other cool season grasses.

Seaside, Emerald, and Penncross are the only seeded varieties available at this time. Emerald and Penncross were bred specifically for fine turf usage. Although Seaside is not a bred variety, being merely a conglomeration of seed from wild creeping bents adapted to the Pacific Northwest, it performs adequately on fairways in some areas. Excellent data from Michigan State University indicates the relative performance of these varieties for tees and fairways.

Penncross is well established in the turfgrass industry and usually does a good job on greens and tees. Penncross is the most vigorous creeping bent and as such it is often difficult to manage on fairways.

Emerald is the newest creeping bent to become available. It also does a good job on greens and tees, but additionally has looked promising for fairway use. Although more dense and vigorous than Seaside and finer textured than Penncross, it does not possess the extreme vigor of Penncross and thus is easier to manage. However, the uniformity of Emerald, which is so desirable for greens, might be a potential problem on fairways — where genetic diversity is usually desirable.

In summary, bentgrass should be considered for fairway use — to give your cause and your players the competitive edge.□

## ASPA Winter Conference Slated For New Orleans

The annual mid-winter conference of the American Sod Producers has been scheduled for the Ramada Orleans in the city of New Orleans for February 7-9. This represents a change from a previously scheduled date, but the change was made in order to avoid conflicts with other important meetings within the industry, according to Jack Kidwell, ASPA president.

The sessions will be devoted to two major areas. The first will be centered around marketing and its importance to the success of the sod producer. The use of mini-conferences, participation by various members in a discussion of their effective procedures and techniques and a free exchange of factual information will highlight the marketing sessions.

The second phase of the conference will deal with the involvement of the sod producer in government and regulations which affect the industry. ASPA Council William Harding of Lincoln, Nebraska will provide the latest up-to-date information and will discuss regulations of various governmental agencies and how they should be handled and complied with by the sod producer.

Because New Orleans is a most unique city, a number of social events are being planned and emphasis is being placed on attendance by the wives as well, along with employees and staff representatives of the various member firms.

seeded Creepers	Ratings
Emerald	2.2
Penncross	2.5
Seaside	2.9
Colonial (seeded non-creepers)	devel ber
Exeter	3.7
Astoria	3.9
Hofior	3.4
Boral	3.9
Highland	4.2
/egetatively propagated creepers	
Pennpar	2.1
Cohansey	2.8
Toronto	2.2
. Performance data were collected at Michigan State University from	1968-1973