QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

All questions sent to the Green Committee will be answered in a letter to the writer as promptly as possible. The more interesting of these questions, with concise answers, will appear in this column each month. If your experience leads you to disagree with any answer given in this column, it is your privilege and duty to write to the Green Committee.

While most of the answers are of general application, please bear in mind that each recommendation is intended specifically for the locality designated at the end of the question.

1. Spring versus fall vegetative planting of greens; creeping bent as a grass for tees.—We have a nursery of creeping bent of over an acre in area, and also have five large tees planted to creeping bent. We are now ready to plant some of our greens to creeping bent runners taken from our nursery, and would like to know at what season of the year it is recommended that this be done so that the greens may be used for play in the minimum length of time after the planting. Our experience has been that greens thus planted about the middle of August are ready for play the first of November, but we have had no experience with early spring planting. We might add that we find creeping bent is the logical grass for tees, from the standpoint of economy in planting, economy in care after planted, and high character of the turf for teeing purposes. (Missouri.)

We have made plantings of creeping bent by the vegetative method in every month of the growing season, and we prefer August and September for doing the work, for the reason that in the late summer and fall the plantings suffer vastly less from weeds than they do in the spring. This is of particular importance where crab grass becomes a serious pest. Crab grass is especially hard on plantings made in the spring, and at that season will greatly impede the spread of the creeping bent. We thoroughly agree with you in your opinion of the great satisfaction to be derived from creeping bent tees; we do not know of any other grass that is more satisfactory for that purpose.

2. Grasses for northern putting greens, tees, fairways, and rough.—Our architect has specified for our greens a mixture of 80 per cent fescue and 20 per cent bent; for our fairways, a mixture of fescue and bluegrass; for our rough, a mixture of Pacey's short-seeded rye-grass and meadow fescue. Would you advise us to accept his specifications? (New Jersey.)

We would caution you against the use of fescue for putting greens. We have visited a great many golf courses and do not know of a single putting green that is more than two years old that is pure fescue, and we know of very few that have an appreciable amount of this grass in them, though hundreds have been seeded to fescue in the past. This is a much over-rated putting green grass in this country. We would advise you to seed your greens to bent at a rate of not to exceed 5 pounds per 1,000 square feet, using German mixed bent, Colonial bent, or Rhode Island