

the various mercury compounds, in different parts of the country. Any club which has tested these chemicals is requested to report their success or failure in order to make this summary as representative as possible.

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

All questions sent to the Green Section 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 Section.

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. Late fall and winter seeding.**—Do you consider the latter part of October or first of November as too late to sow grass seed in this latitude? (New Jersey; Ohio.)

**ANSWER.**—The matter of seeding turf grasses in the late fall or winter is somewhat of a gamble. Late fall seeding all depends on weather conditions. We have seen good results follow from seeding in November, notwithstanding the chances of success are against seeding so late. If your ground is well prepared in late fall you might be justified in taking a chance and seeding even as late as November 1, as if the stand should turn out thin in early spring a little seeding then ought to give good results. Spring seeding is usually very unsatisfactory on account of the weed troubles; but if the seed can be sown before March 1 the young grass ought to get ahead of the great majority of spring weeds. Another difficulty with spring seeding is that as a rule the ground is not in condition to work so as to prepare a proper seed bed in early spring. If however you can prepare your ground for seeding in the late fall, you could reasonably hope for success by seeding on this ground in late February, even if the ground should be frozen at that time. Success has also been had with sowing grass seed directly on top of the snow in late winter. In general, the best time for seeding in your latitude is between August 15 and September 15; after October 15 there is chance of both success and failure.

**2. Grasses for winter greens in the South.**—We are sending you a sample of seed mixture that has been recommended for winter greens in this section of the country. We should be glad to know what this mixture consists of and its suitability for the purpose. (Florida.)

**ANSWER.**—The sample you send is largely perennial rye-grass, containing also some red fescue and some redtop. We would not advise you to buy this mixture, nor any other mixture for that matter. Ordinarily you will get better seeds and at a less price by buy-

ing them pure, and mixing them yourself if desired. For temporary winter greens red fescue is worthless. Italian rye-grass and redtop are both commonly used, often in mixture, for winter greens, but we are inclined to regard a mixture of the two as undesirable, as the rye-grass grows much more rapidly than the redtop. Both of these grasses moreover are injured by brown-patch in Florida, and for that reason bluegrass and white clover are preferable, as they are immune to brown-patch. There is an objection to bluegrass and white clover, however, in that they are quite slow in getting started, necessitating planting them several weeks earlier than the rye-grasses and redtop. All in all we would advise you to plant either Italian rye-grass or redtop, but neither in mixture with the other.

**3. Creeping bent nurseries of more than one strain.**—Would you advise two different nurseries, one for the Washington and one for the Metropolitan bent, or just one nursery for one of the varieties? (Ohio.)

ANSWER.—Our experience has been that it is best to grow only one strain unless experimental work is to be undertaken. There is always a possibility of getting the strains mixed, thus producing a mottled turf and losing the identity of both strains.

**4. Continuing fertilizing turf through October.**—There has been some dispute here with regard to the advisability of continuing the fertilizing of putting greens the latter part of September and through October. Kindly give us your opinion on this question, especially as regards the use of ammonium sulfate. (New York.)

ANSWER.—In our work at Arlington Turf Garden we continue the fertilizing and topdressing of our turf throughout the growing season, and we would advise you to continue your use of ammonium sulfate or whatever other fertilizer you may be using, as long as the grass has a chance to grow, and especially so if it is in need of fertilizer. It is advisable to keep up the vigor of your turf at all times during the period of growth.

**5. Italian rye-grass and other grasses for the rough.**—What are your reasons for objecting to the use of Italian rye-grass for the rough? One of our neighboring clubs has it and it seems to be satisfactory, although it has only been in one year. (Washington.)

ANSWER.—Our objection to Italian rye-grass is that it usually makes too rank a growth and is not permanent, usually not lasting more than two or three years. We believe you will find red fescue or sheep's fescue much more satisfactory for the rough, both from the standpoint of upkeep and of permanency.

**6. Shavings in manure.**—Is a small amount of shavings in manure objectionable in its use as a compost for greens? (Pennsylvania.)

ANSWER.—No, particularly if the manure is composted.

## MR. GREEN COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN:

As you know there has always been more or less criticism of creeping bent greens planted by the vegetative method. Many such greens are not first class putting surfaces for one or both of the following reasons—the strain of bent used was inferior or the green has not been properly cared for after planting—and in many cases both conditions exist.

Any creeping bent green not properly topdressed, fertilized, watered, and cut closely through the entire growing season will be unsatisfactory. So will any seeded green not properly maintained.

Any creeping bent green of an inferior strain will not be perfect even if properly maintained for the reason that the characteristics of that strain are not ideal, but proper greenkeeping will keep it presentable at least.

At Arlington we have tested over 100 strains of creeping bent and are still experimenting. These strains can be divided into three classes with general characteristics as follows:

First, those strains whose blades grow upright both in the nursery row and in turf, with long internodes and correspondingly sparse foliage. Under putting green conditions they produce a thin stubby turf.

Second, those whose blades lie flat both in the nursery row and in turf, the nodes being far apart and the foliage thin. Under putting green conditions they produce a "grain," the blades pointing in one general direction. When putting in that direction the green is very fast, but when putting against the "grain" the green is slow and bumpy.

The blades of the third class grow close to the ground in the nursery rows but the plant has short internodes and dense foliage. Under turf conditions the blades are so crowded together that they stand upright.

If you have a bent of this kind on your greens you are to be congratulated. Mow them closely every day, topdress lightly every month to keep the putting surface firm and true. You need not worry about "grain," but if you neglect close cutting and periodic topdressing they will become "fluffy" which is just as undesirable a condition.

To this third class belong the Metropolitan and Washington strains, which are also strongly resistant to brown-patch, and as you may remember are the only strains recommended by the Green Section for over two years. As the Peripatetic Golfer once said, "It is a mistake to use any bent vegetatively other than Washington or Metropolitan until a better strain is discovered." It is quite likely that there are strains having all the good qualities of Washington or Metropolitan, or that such strains will eventually be found, but until they have been thoroughly tested under turf conditions they should not be tried on a large scale.

So because some club you know of has creeping bent greens that are justly criticised do not be discouraged or apprehensive if you have a strain belonging to the third class—and a good greenkeeper. Also bear in mind a remark made by one of the greatest putters ever born, "The price of good greens is ceaseless vigilance."

**THE GREEN SECTION.**