

## Seeded Bent Greens at Brae Burn Country Club

By John Shanahan

Our putting greens at West Newton, Mass., are from 12 to 25 years old, although nearly all of them have been rebuilt within the last seven years, and three were rebuilt during the present year. They were seeded with mixed bent, and some of them are now almost pure velvet bent. In rebuilding we use old sod and sod from our bowling grounds. In common with bent greens generally they suffer in summer from attacks of brown-patch, the small brown-patch giving us the most trouble. In treating them for brown-patch we have used a mixture of urea and one of the organic mercury compounds, and also calomel, and seem to find the latter the more effective as a preventive, although the mixture was used on some greens that were badly affected and with good results. Our program this season was to spray the greens with calomel beginning in May, applying about 20 ounces to a green, and every ten days thereafter at the rate of



Raking crab grass out of a green at Brae Burn Country Club. This green is largely velvet bent. A special rake is used with fine steel teeth set closely together

about 8 ounces to a green. With this treatment we had no really serious trouble the whole season. For making the application we have used a power sprayer and have been well pleased with its operation.

Another of our major problems is the control of crab grass, which is practically the only serious weed we have to contend with. The only way we know of to rid a green of this pest is to cut it out. This, of course, leaves the green in poor condition for play for a short time, and is hardly the proper course to pursue right before a tournament. However, a very fair playing surface can be obtained on a green badly infested with crab grass by raking it well with steel rakes and then cutting close.

The soil on our course is of three types—sand, clay, and peat. In winter about two yards of sharp sand is applied to each green. When the ground is soft in winter or early spring we use temporary greens.

About 1½ yards of loam are spread on each green in the spring with shovels, and then smoothed with a wire mat. We maintain a compost pile of sandy loam, which is two or three years old before being used. The material is screened before being applied to the greens. We also remove at least two inches of the topsoil from the compost pile before using it on the greens in order to get rid of most of the weed seeds that are certain to find lodgment in the material. Two or three times a year the greens are gone over with a roller of medium weight. The greens are built up enough to provide sufficient surface drainage, so that we have not found tile drainage necessary. As fertilizer we apply ½ yard of sandy loam mixed with 7 pounds of sulphate of ammonia to each green about every three weeks during the summer months.

The greens are mowed every day except Sunday. We find that in general they may be sufficiently brushed by dragging the hose over them, although when worm-casts are present we have recourse to brooms, and at times also we find the use of a fine-toothed rake very beneficial. Early morning watering seems to give us the best results and is at least less expensive than attempting to water at night. We have not found it necessary to resort to reseeding any of our greens except, of course, where crab grass has been cut out or where ball holes must be filled.

(The 1928 United States National Amateur Championship was held at Brae Burn.—EDITORS.)

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## The Putting Greens at Olympia Fields Country Club

By Fred Kruger

Of the 72 greens which are at Olympia Fields, there are 42 vegetative greens; the other 30 are mixed grasses of fescue, bluegrass, bent, *Poa annua*, red top, and *Poa trivialis*. The different strains of grasses are evenly distributed except on one green, the 18th green on No. 1 course, which is fescue and *Poa trivialis*, the latter predominating. I think this is the best green of the 72. The greens average about 7,500 square feet, varying according to the shot.

We pole the greens every morning the very first thing. We never mow a green under any circumstances until it has been poled. The mowing is done with hand mowers, always catching the clippings. Once a week during the growing season we recut the bent greens with a power mower using a steel brush in front to stand the runners up. Sometimes we find it necessary to recut some of the greens at different angles.

The top-dressing is made of our local soil, which is a heavy clay loam, of which we use three parts soil to one part sand. We use 1½ yards of top-dressing to our greens. The top-dressing is applied with a tractor and trailer which is driven straight across the green, the top-dressing being thrown on with the scoop shovels. It is matted with a steel mat, brushed twice and finished with a rotary sweeper without the catcher.

We do not make compost piles for our top-dressing, as we have found that with a variation of the different grasses in our greens a compost pile is not necessary. We cart the topsoil in alongside of our compost sheds and pile it up the year before we are to use it. The following year we shoot it into our compost sheds through a