

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. If your experience leads you to disagree with any answer here given it is your privilege and duty to write to the Green Section. While most of the answers are of general application, it must be borne in mind that each recommendation is intended specifically for the locality designated at the end of the question.

Selecting a grass for new putting greens.—We are now ready to plant the putting greens on our new course and naturally want to select the grass that will give us greens of the best quality. The course has been provided with excellent drainage. (Indiana)

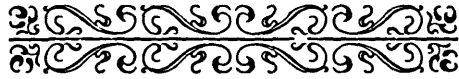
ANSWER.—After many years of testing and observing putting green grasses we have been unable to find any best grass suitable for the purpose. For your locality either creeping bent planted with the stolons or bent planted with seed should be satisfactory. There is much discussion among golfers as to which of these two kinds of turf is preferable. The matter is doubtless very largely one of personal preference. Some grasses which produce very attractive putting green turf are very difficult to maintain, and for that reason are frequently considered undesirable. You will find a rating of putting green grasses from 12 demonstration turf gardens, based on observations during the season of 1929, on page 218 of the Bulletin for December, 1929, and the ratings there given are very much like ratings we have received from other turf gardens over a period of years. Grasses we regard as satisfactory are the Washington and Metropolitan strains of creeping bent planted by the stolon method, and seaside creeping bent, German mixed bent, or colonial bent planted from seed. German bent is very largely colonial bent but with a trace of velvet bent, which adds to its attractiveness for putting greens. Our recommendation to those contemplating planting putting greens is that they visit their nearest demonstration turf garden cooperating with the Green Section, where they may examine the various putting green grasses growing side by side under putting green conditions and thus draw their own conclusions. A list of these demonstration turf gardens is given on page 213 of the Bulletin for December, 1929. There are also available for this purpose the demonstration plots on the experimental turf gardens maintained directly by the Green Section, namely the Arlington turf garden at Washington, D. C., and our Mid-West turf garden at Everett, Ill., near Chicago.

Winter top-dressing for putting greens.—Will a mixture of equal parts of mushroom soil, sand, and good topsoil or earth be satisfactory as a winter top-dressing for our putting greens? (Delaware)

ANSWER.—The same top-dressing material should be used on putting greens in winter as in the growing season. The mixture you describe should be entirely satisfactory. Since you probably use your greens throughout the winter care should be taken to see that too much top-dressing is not applied. There is no need of covering greens with heavy top-dressing in winter except for giving a true putting surface.



Looking from the tee, eighth hole (390 yards), Old Elm Club, Fort Sheridan, Ill.



We must learn that any person who will not accept what he knows to be true, for the very love of truth alone, is very definitely undermining his mental integrity. It will be observed that the mind of such a person gradually stops growing, for, being constantly hedged in and cropped here and there, it soon learns to respect artificial fences more than freedom for growth.

Luther Burbank

