

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

How can we control Bermuda grass in putting greens of bent grass? (Tennessee)

ANSWER.—It is probable that if the Bermuda grass is weeded out of the putting greens by hand as soon as it begins to appear in the spring, and a careful watch is maintained through the spring and summer to keep the greens clean, they may be effectively rid of the Bermuda grass. You will probably find that much of the Bermuda grass has winterkilled and that comparatively little will be left in the putting greens to weed out in the spring. Your conditions in Tennessee are doubtless similar to those in Oklahoma, where there are many beautiful putting greens of seaside creeping bent grass. In those putting greens the Bermuda grass starts out with only a few scattered patches in the spring, but by fall it has sometimes taken over large areas on the putting greens. The putting greens, however, are played on over winter and a great deal of the Bermuda grass winterkills so that by the following spring there are only a few scattered patches left. These patches again increase in the summer until gradually the Bermuda grass takes over more and more of the bent putting greens. The plants should therefore be removed before they have a chance to spread.

Should manure be used very often during the summer as a fertilizer on putting greens? (Texas)

ANSWER.—We advise against the use of manure on putting greens, since it usually contains a large quantity of weed seeds. For fertilizing putting greens we recommend other nitrogen carriers, such as cottonseed meal, bone meal, pulverized poultry manure, and activated sludge. Organic fertilizers must be used with care during the late spring and summer as they are apt to break down rapidly during the hot weather and may stimulate more growth than is desirable. The growth of the grass can be controlled better during the summer by making lighter and more frequent applications of soluble nitrogen carriers, such as sulphate of ammonia, ammonium phosphate, and urea.

What should be used as a dressing to create the best cushion under grass? (Texas)

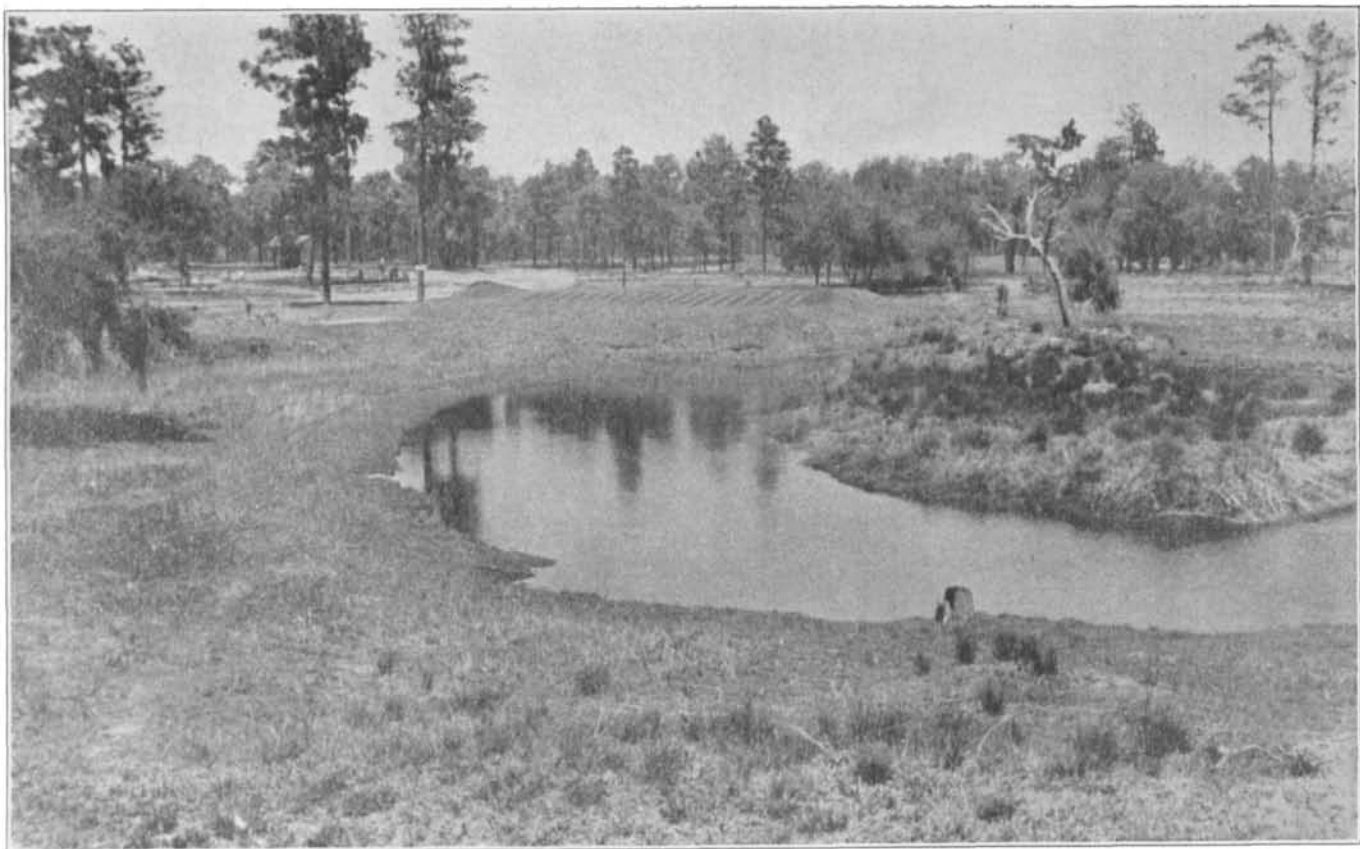
ANSWER.—Sandy loams containing much organic matter are best for improving the cushion on putting greens.

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Thirteenth hole (130 yards), Forest Hills Country Club, Tampa, Fla.



The foolish and the dead alone never change their opinion.

James Russell Lowell

