

intervals between cuttings. It would also be undesirable during the summer months when the recovery from short cutting of grass which has grown long, is very slow. The second method might prove usable, since it would provide a suitable playing surface and yet prevent serious injury to the grass because of too close clipping. Using the latter method some leaves would always remain, whereas with the first method there would be times immediately after cutting when nothing but stubble would be left. This stubble recovers very slowly when soil and weather conditions are unfavorable.

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### Change in the Scientific Name for Colonial Bent

A classification of the common bent grasses was given in the Bulletin for March, 1930. In this classification the name used for colonial bent was *Agrostis capillaris*. The policy of the Bulletin is to use the botanical classification and scientific names recommended by A. S. Hitchcock, botanist of the United States Department of Agriculture. Since making his recommendations for the names used in that number of the 1930 Bulletin, Doctor Hitchcock has had an opportunity to make a more detailed study of some of the earliest recorded specimens of bent grasses in European herbariums. As a result of this study he has decided to discontinue the use of the name *Agrostis capillaris* for this grass and to use the name *Agrostis tenuis*. There are several technical reasons for this change but they are not likely to be of particular interest to most of our readers. The Bulletin will hereafter use *Agrostis tenuis* as the scientific name of the species of grass commonly known as colonial bent. It is hoped that this name will be generally used in the seed catalogues in order to avoid confusion. It is suggested that our readers who keep files of the Bulletin refer to pages 47 and 49 of the Bulletin for March, 1930, and where the word is used there cross out *capillaris* and insert *tenuis*.

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**Accelerating the melting of snow.**—At times it happens that a greenkeeper would welcome the melting of the blanket of snow that lingers on his putting greens in the spring in order that the turf may dry the more quickly and permit the starting of desirable spring work. The same problem has been encountered by the Forest Service of the United States Department of Agriculture at their nurseries at various locations in the United States, and a simple method has been developed for hastening the melting of the snow. In some years it happens that sites chosen for reforestation by planting are ready for seedlings from the forest nursery while the nursery is still buried in snow. By the time the snow in the nursery has melted and the trees are ready for transplanting the soil in the planting sites may be too dry. The problem in such a case is to melt the snow and advance the working season in the nursery. To melt the snow, fine black soil is broadcast on the snow over the compartments of the nursery from which planting stock is to be removed first. This soil, because it is black, absorbs considerable heat which would otherwise be reflected from the snow, if uncovered, on account of its whiteness. The operation hastens the melting of the snow and enables the workers to get out the planting stock as much as two weeks earlier in some instances.