

of over an inch in thickness, prepared as above, which can be crumbled by the pressure of the thumb and fingers of one hand, and which does not present a glazed, hard crust, may be judged as a suitable mixture for putting green topsoil, including material for top-dressing purposes.

With adequate fertilizing and watering it will be possible to maintain excellent turf on such a soil mixture without danger of turf injuries due to poor soil conditions. Such a soil will also have sufficient "give" or resiliency, without being spongy, to hold on the green a reasonably well-played pitch shot, and will have present the same qualities in this respect from day to day whether wet or dry.

---

### When Is a Bent Grass a Creeping Bent?

There has been much discussion in the last few years regarding the inclusion of the word "creeping" in the common name applied to Astoria bent, a species of bent grass being grown in Oregon for seed which is a distinct strain of colonial bent that displays pronounced creeping characteristics in the place in Oregon where it is grown. The attitude of the Green Section in this matter is made clear in the article "Classification of Redtop and the Common Bent Grasses" commencing on page 44 of the Bulletin for March, 1930, especially on page 49 in that article. The difference in the points of view in this discussion is largely a matter of contention over the use of words, for both sides are in complete accord as to the character of the grass.

The name "creeping bent" has been handed down to us as a common name applying to a certain group of grasses which botanists have grouped into a single species which, as stated in the Bulletin for March, 1930, is known botanically as *Agrostis palustris*. Unfortunately in this common name the word "creeping" may be construed as an adjective, which is a construction not intended. If the name could acceptedly be hyphenated or compounded, thus appearing as creeping-bent or creepingbent, its meaning would perhaps be less open to misconception.

In the use of the common name "creeping bent," if the word "creeping" is to be construed as a descriptive adjective and not as a part of the noun, the confusion which exists in the case of Astoria bent would necessarily enter also into the case of many other grasses of the genus *Agrostis*. For instance, on many golf courses and experimental turf gardens there are areas of velvet bent turf (*Agrostis canina*) planted with stolons which have developed into thick turf by the creeping habit common to species of *Agrostis*. At the Arlington turf garden there are two plots of redtop (*Agrostis alba*) which were planted with stolons and which have developed by the creeping habit into thick turf. Using the word "creeping" as an adjective one could not deny that such turf consisted of species of *Agrostis* which had distinctly creeping habits. In that case therefore we should be obliged to call both velvet bent and redtop "creeping bent." However, no one acquainted with turf confuses redtop and velvet bent with creeping bent.

In the case of Astoria bent, it can not be denied that this grass produces rootstocks and stolons, which are the creeping parts of plants. As a matter of fact, the production of rootstocks and stolons has been frequently demonstrated also in colonial bent grown from New Zealand seed as well as in other kinds of bent. It has therefore always been entirely agreed that Astoria bent was able to creep, and therefore a creeping grass, and logically a creeping bent if the word "creeping" in the name is to be construed as a descriptive adjective. Furthermore it has been admitted that all commercial bent, as well as redtop, is able to creep and is therefore creeping bent under the same use of the word.

The English language is noted for such confusing use of words. There is a strain of crimson clover the flowers of which are pure white. If a grower were raising this strain of clover, of which there can be no question as to color, it is wondered whether one would feel it necessary to insist that it be certified as white clover instead of crimson clover. If an experiment station should attempt to do so it would doubtless find it difficult to induce the farmers or the various state and federal agriculturists to adopt its viewpoint even though the flowers of this white strain of crimson clover are whiter than those of white clover itself. The public generally accepts the name crimson clover for the plant *Trifolium incarnatum* and the name white clover for the plant *Trifolium repens*, regardless of color. Likewise the color of the blossoms of crimson clover is considered deeper red than the color of the blossoms of red clover (*Trifolium pratense*). Anyone is nevertheless quite willing to accept the name red clover as a common name even though in Gray's New Manual of Botany the color of the corolla is given as "magenta to whitish." In the case of vetch the common name hairy vetch is restricted to a particular species of vetch, but there are a good many other species of vetch which are also hairy but which are certainly not referred to as hairy vetch. It is hard to see any blue in Kentucky bluegrass turf or red in redtop turf. There are almost no end of cases such as these that might be cited as apt to cause a great deal of confusion by construing in its descriptive sense an adjective which in reality is a part of a noun. The whole situation reminds one of the remarks of a college professor of history who, when his class would reach the point of discussing the old Holy Roman Empire, would introduce his lecture thus: "Gentlemen, we are now to consider the Holy Roman Empire, which was neither holy nor Roman nor empire. However this name has been handed down to us through the ages, and we will therefore refer to it as the Holy Roman Empire."

---

Anyone can have good putting greens in May, June, or October. The real test of the greenkeeper is in the period from July to September.

---

Some one has estimated that United States farmers lose close to \$500,000,000 a year through their neglect of farm machinery. On golf courses as well as on farms it pays to keep tractors, mowers, and other equipment in condition for use.



**Eighteenth hole (372 yards) Gulf Stream Golf Club, Delray Beach, Fla. Photographed from in front of tee.**



**Thinking is the hardest work there is, which is  
the probable reason why so few engage in it.**

**Henry Ford**

