

Overseeding With Bentgrass

BY J. W. DUDLEY

Chairman, Green Committee, Athens Country Club, Athens, Ga.

On October, 1958, our greens were overseeded with $4\frac{1}{2}$ pounds per 1,000 square feet of seaside bentgrass seed. The usual preparation was done, which included spiking two weeks prior to planting so that holes created would cover over, application of a complete fertilizer (8-8-8) with trace elements, verticutting (this had been done weekly since Bermuda had started growing), and seeding. The seed was sprayed with 1 pound of Captan per 1000 square feet and this was repeated at weekly intervals for pythium protection.

The seed germinated in approximately 10 days and even though our Bermuda continued to grow for the next two or three weeks, our putting surface was good and continued so until December 10, at which time our first hard freeze knocked both off color. In spite of this, the surface was still smooth and in good putting condition until March 1, when *Poa annua* started to seed out. This condition was corrected in about 20 days, when bent started to grow again. Our greens were in good shape again by March 20.

I would say that, as a whole, our members have been well pleased with bent this year.

Advantages of bent over ryegrass:

1. Produces better putting surface.
2. Members are not inconvenienced by increased cutting heights necessitated by seedling ryegrass.
3. Cost of this grass this year at $4\frac{1}{2}$ -pound rate was \$5.00 per 1000 square feet; at \$1.20 per pound vs. \$7.20 per 1000 square feet at 60-pounds per 1000 square feet rate, based on 12¢ ryegrass (Actually, at the above rate, we planted 36 million bentgrass seed per 1000 square feet vs. 15 million ryegrass at above rate).

Disadvantages of bent over ryegrass:

1. During the early spring growth surge, bent does not seem to be as compatible with *Poa annua* as ryegrass. Consequently, when our early spring growth started (this year approximately March 10), our greens were bumpy until the bent started growing vigorously around March

20. However, at the present time, the greens are smooth and fully covered in spite of approximately 60% *Poa annua* growth on some of them.

2. Bentgrass did not do well for us as a fringe grass. This, we attribute to the heavy, matted growth of 127 on our fringes.
3. Bent, in heavy traffic (that is, the front side) did not do as well during critical months of January and February as the back side. However, it was as good as our average ryegrass.

Changes we plan to make next year:

1. Lessen rate of bent from $4\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 pounds and add 2 pounds of redtop per 1000 square feet.
2. Use maleic hydrazide as growth retardant on Bermuda.
3. Verticut heavier, possibly three times instead of one.
4. Plant fringes in ryegrass.

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Mr. Harman

Raymond E. "Dutch" Harman has joined the USGA Green Section Staff after serving as Agricultural Agent in Essex County, N. J., for 31 years. In that time, turf culture was one of his prime interests. He has been an Honorary and Associate Member of the

New Jersey Superintendents Association; Past President of New Jersey County Agricultural Agents Association; Honorary Member of many nurserymen's and horticulture associations; served in numerous elective offices in Grange and Penn State University Alumni Association. Mr. Harman will work out of the Northeast District Office.



With Diamond Head in the background, golfers at the Ala Wai Golf Course, Honolulu, Hawaii volunteered to help bring the course into condition for the USGA Amateur Public Links Tournament. Silver crabgrass is the enemy and these golfers are removing it in one of the surest weed control measures yet devised; hand weeding. The Amateur Public Links Tournament was the first USGA competition to be held outside of the continental U. S.

Top-Dressing

Top-dressing is used to maintain a smooth true putting surface. Indiscriminate use of top-dressing can be an expensive and even harmful practice. Top-dressing should not be applied over a heavily matted turf. The mat should be removed with a rake or vertical mower so that the material will contact the soil surface. A good top-dressing should be high in sand and may contain peat or other organic matter. Top-dressing of the same composition should be used for every application. Frequent changes in type of top-dressing will produce harmful soil layers. Applications should be made only when necessary to produce an improved surface. The spring and fall seasons, when the grass is growing vigorously, are the best times.

—Victor B. Youngner

Potash — What Is It?

The term "potash" when used in connection with fertilizers refers to potassium oxide, written chemically as K_2O . The element potassium (K) is what the plant uses. In nature and commerce it is found combined with other elements. When combined with chlorine (Cl), for example, it forms potassium chloride (KCl) called muriate of potash. Due to custom of many years and state or federal laws, the potash content of fertilizers is given in terms of K_2O even though there is no K_2O as such in the material. When the chemist analyzes the fertilizer, he finds out how much K is present and calculates this amount to the equivalent amount of K_2O .

—Taken from "Potash in Agriculture",—a publication of the American Potash Institute.