

TURF TWISTERS

MOWING FREQUENCY

Question: How often should putting greens be mowed? (UTAH)

Answer: We think as often as possible; seven days a week if manpower is available. However, a minimum schedule of four days a week during the active growing season is urged. If you can gain an additional mowing or two each week, all the better for golf and your members. The mowing operation not only cuts the grass, but it smooths the putting surface, removes spike marks, small imperfections and litter.

PLANTING SEASIDE BENT

Question: Do you have printed material regarding the planting and care of Seaside bentgrass? (OKLAHOMA)

Answer: Little has been written specifically about Seaside bentgrass in recent years. It generally requires the same care as other bentgrasses.

It is planted by seed. A seeding rate of 2 lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft. is usually recommended. Seed should be broadcast uniformly over a carefully prepared surface and then raked lightly or topdressed with a very light topdressing.

Seaside bent is composed of many plant types and after a few years the stronger plants tend to take over at the expense of weaker ones. Therefore after about 5 years a Seaside bent green becomes spotted in appearance and the variations may sometimes present management difficulties because of differing cultural requirement among strains. Therefore, while the broad genetic base of Seaside bent makes it extremely adaptable, the diversity of types also presents some problems.

INCREASING ROOT DEPTH

Question: The roots on our bentgrass putting greens are very shallow and consequently we must water very frequently. How can we increase rooting depth? (MISSOURI, KANSAS, ARIZONA)

Answer: Studies by Dr. Jim Beard at Purdue have shown that soil temperature is the major factor influencing the root growth of bentgrass. The best advice we can give in a few words is to insure adequate drainage and aeration, try to promote deep rooting in cooler seasons by good fertility and judicious irrigation, and then water as necessary to prevent wilting during the summer months. There is no known way of "making" roots grow deeper during the summer months.