

South German Mixed Bent Seed

This seed is harvested mainly in southwest Germany in the region with Frankfort more or less central. It is gathered from wild native grasses from areas that are not too closely pastured. Formerly the seed was sold as creeping bent and sometimes as Rhode Island bent. As a matter of fact the seed is a mixture as naturally harvested, but which varies more or less in the percentages of the different grass seeds which it contains. From analyses of a very large series of samples, the content of this mixed seed varies about as follows:

Rhode Island bent.....	40 to 60 percent
Velvet bent.....	5 to 40 "
Redtop	5 to 15 "
Creeping or carpet bent.....	a trace

If a putting-green be sown to South German mixed bent, certain curious phenomena develop in the course of time. After five years' growth about half of the turf will be composed of velvet bent and carpet bent, the two in about equal proportion. This is because these two grasses form circular patches which increase year by year, while the Rhode Island bent plants do not enlarge perceptibly. The redtop disappears entirely after about two years. As the grasses get still older they come to consist entirely of velvet bent and carpet bent, usually about half and half. In New England, however, at least on certain soils, the velvet bent will in time crowd out the carpet bent, resulting in nearly pure velvet bent greens, the finest putting turf known. Such pure velvet bent greens may be seen at Brookline, Wollaston, Ekwanok, Brae-Burn, and other New England clubs. Indeed, on a few courses whole fairways are pure velvet bent. Very rarely such an old green is pure or nearly pure creeping bent.

From the above it will appear that the Rhode Island bent serves as little more than a filler while the other bents are spreading; and that the really desirable result is either pure velvet bent or pure carpet bent or a patchwork of the two. It is safe to say that pure seed of these two grasses is never likely to be obtainable, but in any event is bound to be expensive. South German mixed bent seed is even now not abundant enough at very high prices; furthermore, the high prices seem to have the effect of increasing the percentage of redtop in the mixture. What is the way out of this dilemma? We would urge our readers again to read the article entitled, "Vegetative Propagation of Putting Green Grasses," Vol. I, page 124. The method there described is very simple and will make any club independent of bent seed supplies.

The Twin City District Green Section Is Organized

At a meeting held during the first week in February, representatives of eighteen golf clubs in the neighborhood of Minneapolis and St. Paul organized the Twin City District Green Section. The object is to promote the mutual interests of the member-clubs. Frequent meetings will be held to discuss all such problems as turf culture, architecture, budget systems, and the like. It is hoped that large economies will result from cooperative buying.

Such a local green section should be formed at every golf center. Everyone interested should read again pages 171 and 172, also 194 and 195 of the BULLETIN.