

The United States Amateur Championship will be held at The Country Club, Brookline, Mass., September 4 to 9, inclusive.

The United States Women's Championship will be held at the Greenbrier Golf Club, White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, September 25 to 30, inclusive.

### Membership of the Green Section

In this number of THE BULLETIN we are publishing a list of the golf clubs that are now enrolled in the Green Section. While the number of clubs enrolled is very encouraging indeed considering our little over one year's existence, yet it is the ambition of the Green Committee to have enrolled in the Green Section every golf club in the United States and Canada. In looking over this list you will at once see that there are many clubs in your State which are not, but which should be, enrolled in the Green Section. We feel we will not be doing our duty to the game of golf until we enlist in our work every golf club active in the game. A united effort of all clubs, through the Green Section, will mean that the best that can be expected has been reached, in cooperation, to promote economy and efficiency in turf production and management; and it is this "best" which we have set out to achieve. Here is your opportunity to cooperate with the Green Committee in striving for the goal.

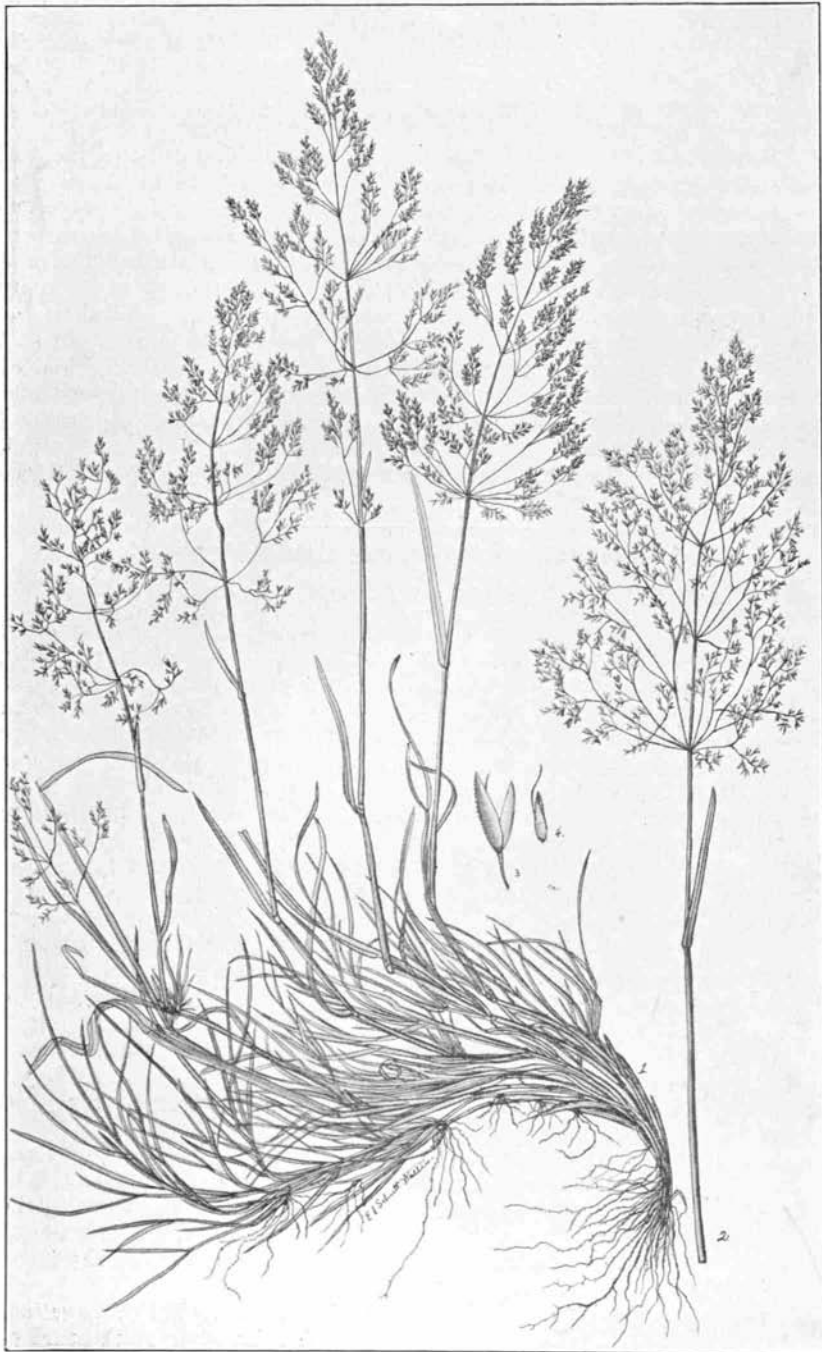
### Some Observations on Velvet Bent

C. V. PIPER AND R. A. OAKLEY

Velvet bent (*Agrostis canina* Linnaeus) is the finest of all the bents and makes the most exquisite turf known. The grass is native to Europe, but long since introduced into the United States mixed with other fine grass seeds. For a long time American botanists supposed that Rhode Island bent was the same thing as *Agrostis canina*, but the former is not nearly so fine-leaved and is otherwise very different. Pure seed of velvet bent has never been on the market, but its seeds are always in the natural mixture now known as South German Mixed Bent, usually about 10 per cent to 15 per cent, but occasionally as high as 40 per cent. Notwithstanding this fact, there are several northern golf courses which have one or more pure velvet bent putting-greens, and many in which the greens are 50 per cent velvet bent. Such pure velvet bent putting-greens occur at Braeburn, Brookline, Ekwanok, Siwanoy, and very notably at Wollaston, the last-named the finest examples that we have seen. At Brookline there are even two fairways that are practically pure velvet bent. On other courses large areas of the grass occur on the fairways at Wykagyl. Towards the southward the percentage of velvet bent on old putting-greens sown with German bent decreases. At Nassau and Wykagyl several of the greens are 50 per cent velvet bent; about Philadelphia and Washington there is rarely as much as 25 per cent.

Inasmuch as all these greens were sown to the South German mixed bent, how have these areas of pure velvet bent come about? There can be apparently only one answer, namely, that the velvet bent crowded out the other grasses. If such be admitted, why should not the effort be made to secure pure velvet bent greens—unquestionably in our opinion the finest quality of putting turf?

Velvet bent lends itself easily to the vegetative method of propagation. At Arlington Farm we have made many experiment plats of the turf of



Velvet bent (*Agrostis canina* Linnaeus). 1, entire plant, natural size. 2, stem and inflorescence, natural size. 3, outer glumes, enlarged 5 times. 4, floret, enlarged 5 times

many different strains. Unfortunately in the latitude of Washington it does not thrive so well as creeping or carpet bent and in particular is more susceptible to brown-patch, and mainly on this account has not been recommended. Northward, however, especially in New England, the grass is amply vigorous, indeed, as before stated, crowding out other grasses under favorable conditions. Clubs that are favorably situated should experiment with velvet bent. The method is not expensive, and is virtually the same as that for carpet bent (see page 124, July, 1921, BULLETIN). We would suggest growing the turf first and then transferring it by the sodding method to the putting-green. In this way there will be practically no interference with play. Nassau has already engaged in this enterprise. It may well be taken up by many New England clubs.

The strains of velvet bent differ in their vigor of growth considerably. Some in one season will from a small sprig make a circle 3 feet in diameter; others, only 6 inches. The color of most strains is a deep apple-green, but in some it is as dark as bluegrass. We suggest a trip to Wollaston to any club that is interested. If the exquisite greens there do not inspire action, —then the spirit of the golf turf "bug" is lacking.

### Suggestions for the Rough

C. V. PIPER AND R. A. OAKLEY

Although much less attention is given to it than to other parts of the golf course, the rough nevertheless is an exceedingly important feature. Frequently with the "duffer," and in fact with the real player, much of the game is played in the rough. It would appear that there should be a sort of standard for this feature, especially on courses where important events are held. There seems to be a general agreement among those who have given thought to the subject, that a shot into the rough should result under fair conditions in a lighter penalty to the player than a shot to a sand trap or grassy hazard. Furthermore, all will agree that the rough should not be of such a character as to make it practically impossible or at least a very difficult matter to locate the ball that lands in it. Much of the congestion and confusion that occurs on holidays and other days when the course is crowded is due to the lost ball. A ball driven to the legitimate rough should be relatively easy to find. In much of the rough as it occurs on a majority of our golf courses it is exceedingly difficult to locate it even when the player or his caddie has a definite idea of where it landed.

Ordinarily the rough is composed of practically the same species of grasses that are in the fairway, with some of the coarser grasses, such as orchard grass, timothy and the coarser growing native grasses and weeds included. These grasses and weeds do not make good rough. They have to be cut frequently and make too rank and continuous or too bunched a growth to be suitable. The rough should not be composed either of continuous thick turf or of large tussocks such as are formed by orchard grass, broom-sedge, and other large bunch-grasses. An almost ideal grass for the rough is sheep's fescue. It is a fine grass, requires little cutting, and grows in relatively small tufts or bunches. These tufts are just about of the right size to impose a proper penalty upon the player. Sheep's fescue, especially when grown on poor soil, makes a rough that is satisfactory from nearly every viewpoint. It is economical to maintain. The ball driven to it can be located with comparative ease, and it affords a sufficient penalty for the player. In many cases the soil of the rough is sufficiently poor to produce