

New Member Clubs of the Green Section

(For Previous Lists See Pages 190, 220 and 248 of This Volume)

Augusta Country Club, Augusta, Maine.
Kittansett Club, Watertown, Mass.
Mount Kisco Golf Club, Mount Kisco, N. Y.
Asbury Park Golf and Country Club, Asbury Park, N. J.
Suburban Golf Club of Elizabeth, Elizabeth, N. J.
Corry Country Club, Corry, Pa.
Somerset Country Club, Somerset, Pa.
Lakewood Country Club, Dover, Ohio.
Culver Military Academy, Culver, Ind.
Bryn Mawr Country Club, Morton Grove, Ill.
Watertown Country Club, Watertown, Wis.
Wakonda Country Club, Des Moines, Iowa.
Westfield Country Club, Westfield Centre, New Brunswick, Canada.
Mexico City Country Club, Mexico City, Mexico.

Two copies of the Bulletin are going forward regularly to each club that is a member of the Green Section. It is particularly desired that one of these copies reach the hands of the greenkeeper. If your greenkeeper's name is not on the mailing list, please correct the mailing for your club accordingly. Additional copies may be obtained for members or employees of your club at \$2.00 per year.

Questions and Answers

1. **Germinating ability of Kentucky bluegrass seed.**—Before ordering the seed for the fairways on an eighteen-hole golf course which we are constructing here, we would like to have your opinion as to the advisability of requiring that the Kentucky bluegrass seed be all from the present year's crop. We understand that the harvesting season was very wet and that there is a likelihood that the 1922 crop will not reach full germinating power by the first of September. In case we could get some strictly high-grade Kentucky bluegrass of the 1921 crop, which would you advise us to use?—(Ohio.)

Experience and careful tests, we think, very generally have shown that bluegrass seed germinates better a year after it is harvested than it does the year in which it is harvested, provided, of course, it is properly cured and stored. We have no information as yet with regard to the germinating ability of this year's crop of bluegrass seed, and therefore we would hesitate to advise you as to whether it would be more economical to buy last year's crop than this year's crop. We think you will find it difficult to get bluegrass seed of last year's crop, and if you can get a supply of it we are quite sure the price will be high. Since it will soon be time to sow seed, we would suggest that you get samples at once and make germination tests, as indicated in the Bulletin. It takes twenty or more days to get a complete and satisfactory test of the Kentucky bluegrass seed, even when placed under the most satisfactory conditions for germination.

2. **Customary percentage of germination for Colonial bent seed.**—We have bought some Colonial bent seed and have had it analyzed, the analysis showing a germination of 45½ per cent. Will you be good enough to advise us what, in your opinion, would be an average germination test for this seed?—(Pennsylvania.)

As for the germination of Colonial bent seed, our experience indicates that most of the seed imported (and all of it is imported) is sufficiently viable upon arrival to germinate 75 per cent.

3. **Crested dog's-tail as a golf turf grass.**—Crested dog's-tail is recommended as an excellent grass for tees and the rough. Is this advice sound?—(Illinois.)

Crested dog's-tail is a European grass and highly valued in Europe for the purposes you mention. The seed is cheap and of excellent quality. Thousands of pounds of it are sold in the United States annually. For some obscure reason crested dog's-tail *does not thrive in the United States*. In this country the grass is really a rarity, and only now and then does one find a specimen. For use in the United States we regard crested dog's-tail as wholly useless, and any money spent for its seed as wasted.

4. **Eradication of speedwell.**—We are sending you a sample of a growth which has lately appeared in round spots on our greens. So many spots have appeared, that to dig it now would make play on the greens very difficult, if not impossible. Will you kindly advise us the name of this growth and what you consider to be the best way to dispose of it, whether by digging it out, or by killing it with a solution.—(Wisconsin.)

The plant in question has been identified as speedwell, known botanically as *Veronica serpyllifolia*. This plant frequently gives much trouble on putting greens, and the only means of eradication we know to be practicable is to cut it out with a hole cutter or remove it by use of a chisel or spud. We think it would be unwise to dig it out of your greens at this season (July) but would suggest that you do so later and plug the spots with good bent turf, or fescue turf if your greens are made up of red fescue. Some have suggested the use of arsenite of soda, which is also used as a treatment for eradicating chickweed, but we are not at all optimistic with regard to the results of this treatment. It might be well for you, however, to try it. You will find a discussion on the use of arsenite of soda in the June number of the Bulletin.

5. **Top-dressing greens with straw over winter.**—I have read Mr. Rockefeller's article on "Winter-Kill" in the March Bulletin, and I wish to express my approval of what he says on this subject. In my ten years' experience on the grounds of our course I have never seen indications of winter-killing on a "hog-back" green, and there were several of that type on our old course. Practically all the flat greens did "kill," some worse than others, the degree varying with weather conditions. I am satisfied the crowning greens escaped, because the surface water ran off, while on the flat greens it stood and froze to the ground, and then "good-bye" to the putting-green grass beneath. I don't think covering the greens with straw or with similar material advisable for the reason pointed out in Mr. Rockefeller's article. The greens are better off without such a covering. Cold weather does not ordinarily kill grass on the greens, but poor surface drainage and the consequent accumulations of ice will do it nearly every time. Such has been my experience with the greens of our old course in a Minnesota winter. If the greens are built to carry off the surface water there will be practically no trouble with winter-kill. Notwithstanding this, some of the clubs here put a light covering of straw on the greens in the fall, say an inch or an inch and a half. We have a frost here from three to five feet in depth and just how a thin covering of straw protects greens I am unable to see. I wish you would explain the theory and the benefit derived from such a covering. I think a loose mulch on greens would tend to prevent or retard surface drainage and allow accumulation of ice and do more damage than good to the greens.—(Minnesota.)

We are not particularly long on theory in this connection but have had some experience and have made numerous observations in connection with the covering of greens during the late fall and winter. We reached the conclusion several years ago that covering is not necessary

for the well being of the grass, and in fact it may be detrimental. Those who advocate the covering of greens during winter do so, we think, on the theory that the light straw mulch or top-dressing applied will serve as a sort of insulator which reduces the fluctuations in temperature and thereby lessens heaving to some extent as well as performing other useful functions. In our opinion light top-dressing is not sufficient to have much effect from the standpoint of insulation, and it certainly is not enough to protect the grass from low temperatures. Unless the dressing is applied at a very light rate or is of such a nature as not to pack on top of the grass, it is very likely to kill the grass out in spots, at least of a small area. We do not believe that the top-dressing of greens with straw or similar material is a good practice, and we would not advise anyone to follow it without checking it up properly. To do this, it would be necessary to treat part of the green and leave the remainder untreated.

6. Preparation of top soil for a new green.—We are building a new green which we intend sowing with German bent seed. Our soil is quite heavy, a good portion of it being of a clayey nature. What is the best treatment to give our top soil?—(Ohio).

In our opinion the topsoil for a putting green with a clay soil base should be at least 6 inches in depth, and this topsoil should be of a garden loam texture. This texture could be obtained approximately by mixing your top clay soil two-fifths, sand two-fifths, and well rotted manure one-fifth. These proportions may need to be modified somewhat, but by actually trying them out we think you can judge fairly correctly when you have obtained the right kind of texture. The idea, of course, is to have soil that has a certain resiliency—one that does not puddle and bake like clay. At the time you sow the seed the soil should be very firm. In other words, a firm seed bed is the best for all grasses. In the future care of this green, the top-dressings given it should be of the same character as the soil, or it would do no harm if they contained relatively more sand. We do not advise mixing manure in your clay subsoil, as the vigor of a green can be controlled by fertilizing from above.

7. Clover in greens.—We are having a great deal of difficulty with clover on our greens. Our soil has been treated this season with an acid fertilizer, but still practically all of our grounds are coming in with large amounts of clover, and it looks as if we would have an almost impossible task to keep the clover out of our greens entirely, and the expense of keeping it out at all we feel is going to be rather heavy. It has occurred to us that we might be better off, under these conditions, to attempt to develop good clover greens. Are there any clover greens in existence, or is there some real drawback to greens of this kind? Can a clover green be made as fast and true as other types of greens, and are they at all well thought of? Our greens were new last year, and we used in them the very best creeping bent seed obtainable.—(New Hampshire).

We have tried to make a continuous and uniform turf of white clover but have not met with success. We do not recall having seen a pure clover green. It is very difficult to get a really true and desirable green from white clover. The bents do wonderfully well in New England, and we are strongly of the opinion that you will have greater satisfaction from your efforts to obtain good bent greens than from your efforts to get white clover on your greens. We realize that it is a very difficult task to get rid of clover, but are inclined to think that the continuous systematic use of sulfate of ammonia will do much to discourage it.