

## **Bent Stolons Two Years Old as Compared With Those One Year Old in Vegetative Planting**

**A Contribution from a Green-Committee Chairman in the East**

In connection with the vegetative planting of creeping bent stolons, the question is often asked as to whether stolons of two years' growth are as satisfactory as those of one year's growth.

From my observations I am led to believe that stolons of the first year's growth will show much quicker and probably better results than older ones. A club which has had considerable experience with vegetative planting put out a nursery bed the first part of May, and by October of the same year had obtained sufficient growth of stolons to plant six greens, the stolons having attained an average growth of approximately four feet. Here was a case of greens being planted with stolons five or six months old, and with exceedingly satisfactory results. The grass came up remarkably quickly and showed a decided tendency to spread and take root wherever there was a chance.

In the following year two other greens were planted from the same nursery bed, the stolons being practically one year older. These two greens developed very fine turf, but the growth in the greens was much more slow and required much more encouragement than the growth from the same nursery planted the previous fall.

It is of course appreciated that different results might have been obtained by a different strain of creeping bent, inasmuch as it is known that these strains differ in many respects.

By this it must not be understood that old stolons are without value. The same club uses their old stolons for tees and repair work, and with good results. When it comes to planting a green, however, it is believed that much more rapid results are obtained from stolons not over one year old.

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## **Quick Sodding at the Country Club of Atlantic City**

**By H. Kendall Read**

In the reconstruction program of the Country Club of Atlantic City, we faced the problem this spring of sodding 7 greens (several of which were fairly large in size) and 12 new tees and the enlarging of a number of old ones. We also had to sod the approach areas immediately in front of several of these new greens, as well as portions of the fairways where traps had existed. This seemed like a real job, and it raised the important question as to the most economical and efficient method to pursue. Being familiar with the experimental work carried on at Washington by the Green Section, I determined to cut our sod thin. We set the blade on our sod-cutter at a scant  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches; after making allowance for the height of the grass, this gave us less than 1 inch of soil.

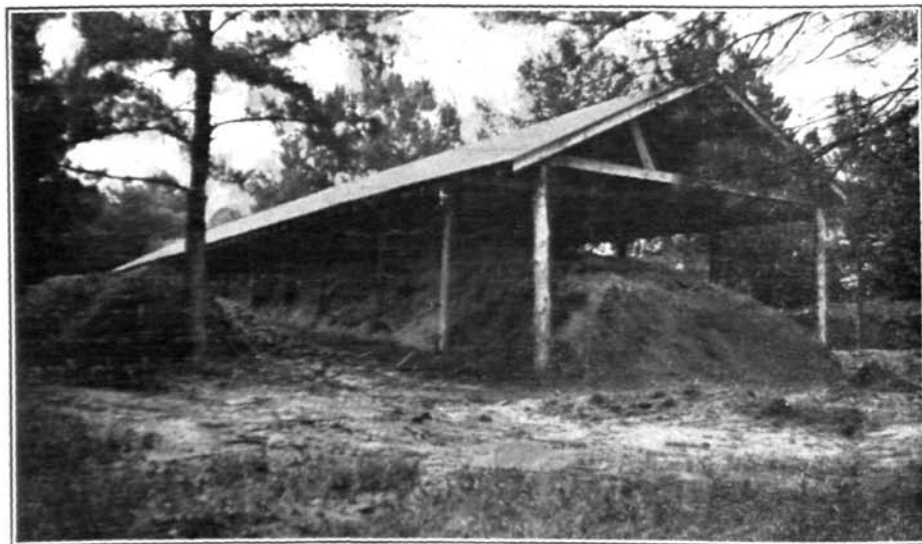
This work entailed lifting the tops off of 7 old greens. The job was so big that we had to make time. We therefore hitched a single horse to our sod-cutter and drove right over the greens, not even using horse-boots, disregarding the slight damage to the turf by the horses' hoofs, which we were confident would disappear in the top-dressing. Cutting the sod so thin enabled us to roll it in strips four or five feet long, without a particle of damage. It will be readily seen that in this way a single wagon could carry in one load about double the quantity of sod that it

could carry if the sod were cut thick. This also saved time and expense.

We were very careful in preparing the surface before laying the sod. We gave the surface plenty of rolling, and had a good, firm top. When it came to placing the sod, we lost no time. In the beginning we were a little too particular. In sodding the first green, the men got down on their knees, fingering each sod and shoving a little dirt underneath here and there. I tried to make the men understand the waste of time in this procedure, and laid sod myself to illustrate what I meant. We then kept speeding it up, faster and faster, and at the end it was an easy matter to do the biggest green we had inside of a day. If your surface is properly prepared (and this is most important), it will be a waste of time to devote much attention to laying the sod. If the sod is properly cut, the men do not even have to stoop in placing it, but may use pointed forks, and their feet, for this purpose.

If the proof of the pudding is in the eating, then I am sure we were justified in our methods. These greens have come up beautifully, and in a very short time will be equal to any of the old greens on the course. The sod knitted very rapidly, and frequent top-dressings soon brought the greens to a good putting surface.

This experiment has been most valuable, and we have certainly learned how to sod in a hurry, save expense, and at the same time get results.



Compost shed at Yorktown (Virginia) Country Club. This shed is 100 feet long and about 25 feet wide. The club used in the neighborhood of 300 yards of compost for the first top-dressing on the fairways.