

of grass usually 2 to 3 feet in diameter, often larger, and varying in color and texture. Each of these circles grew from one seed. So far as color and texture are concerned, one can take his choice. The size of the circle is to some extent an indication of vigor. The appearance of the turf at different times of the year should be noted and particularly its vigor during mid-summer. Of particular importance is its susceptibility to brown-patch, either the large or the small sort. Resistance to this disease is perhaps the most important single characteristic. At the outset after one season's close observation it will be well to make about six different selections. Select only from putting greens. The using of bents from the rough or from various places is too much of a gamble, as it is impossible to judge of the putting quality.

2. **NURSERY ROWS.**—From each plant selected cut out a piece 4 inches square from near the center, being sure that no other strain of bent or other grass is intermixed. Tease this turf in small pieces. Plant these 1 foot apart, making a nursery row 1 rod long, in well-prepared soil. If several selections are made the rows should be 4 feet apart. It is best to plant these about September 1. At the end of one year these nursery rows should each form a band about 4 to 6 feet wide, the stolons on each side being 2 to 3 feet long.

3. **TRIAL TURF PLATS.**—Turf plats may very conveniently be 10 feet square. Do not make them larger, as it involves unnecessary work. Chop up the stolons and plant them in the usual vegetative manner. This should be done late in August or early in September. Have at least one, preferably two, plats of Washington bent to use as a basis of comparison.

4. **POINTS TO CONSIDER IN JUDGING MERIT.**—Color, texture, and vigor are all important characteristics which are relatively easy to determine. Disease resistance can be judged only after the turf has gone through two or more brown-patch seasons. The turf in all its characteristics should be constantly compared with that of Washington bent, which has been very thoroughly tested. Unless a selection proves as good or better than Washington bent it should be discarded. Probably better bents than the Washington strain will be discovered, but to use an inferior one simply invites trouble. Do not be in a hurry to make your judgment. Some of the bents at first distributed by the Green Section would not have been sent out if they had been tested two years more. However they have given valuable information relative to their unlike behaviors in different localities.

Some U. S. Golf Association Decisions on the Rules of Golf

QUESTION.—In order to settle a dispute, will you be kind enough to give a decision, and penalty if any, relative to the following condition? A and B are playing C and D in a four-ball match. A is putting, and B's ball lies about four feet from the cup but not in line with A's ball. After A putts, C runs over and hits B's ball with his club as he sees A's ball about to hit B's ball. B contends that C and D lose the hole.

ANSWER.—Rule 7 under Best-Ball and Four-Ball Matches covers this point. The opponent being C in this case who moved the ball, his side would therefore lose the hole.

QUESTION.—Two men are playing a match-play tournament, but they make up their foursome with two men not in the tournament, not playing partners with either one. One of the match-play players, in approaching

the hole, hits the caddy, who is holding the pin still in the hole, and the ball drops dead to the hole. The caddy belongs to one of the players not in the tournament. Apparently, according to the rules, there would be no penalty and the ball would be played as it lay. However, I am under the impression that there is or was an old rule to the effect that the caddy at the pin shall be treated the same as the players' own caddy. In other words, while he is holding the pin he belongs to the man who is approaching and is affected by the same penalties.

ANSWER.—Under Rule 32, if the flag is still in the hole and not removed there is no penalty whatever if the ball strikes the flag. The United States Golf Association has ruled on a previous occasion that anyone outside the match who is designated to hold the flag is exempt from any penalties imposed under the rules.

QUESTION.—In a best-ball foursome one side concedes the other seven strokes, the strokes coming on certain holes designated on the back of the score card. The side giving the strokes is in possession of the honor. The next hole is halved in fives. On that particular hole the side with the handicap is entitled to a stroke. Does the honor remain or pass?

ANSWER.—In a handicap match play where players receive strokes on certain holes, the lowest net score made on the hole wins the hole and the honor goes to the player who wins the hole. The handicap man is entitled to the same privileges as the scratch man.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

All questions sent to the Green Committee will be answered in a letter to the writer as promptly as possible. The more interesting of these questions, with concise answers, will appear in this column each month. If your experience leads you to disagree with any answers given in this column, it is your privilege and duty to write to the Green Committee.

While most of the answers are of general application, please bear in mind that each recommendation is intended specifically for the locality designated at the end of the question.

1. CREEPING BENT AS A SOUTHERN TURF GRASS.—A great number of our members are urging us to try creeping bent for our putting greens. Do you think it will be able to stand up in a climate such as ours, particularly during the summer months? (Louisiana.)

ANSWER.—It is practically certain that creeping bent will not survive your summer conditions. You could start these greens in the fall and they would be all right through the winter, but with your hot weather of summer they would be pretty sure to go to pieces even though you were able to keep Bermuda and other plants from invading the greens. Under California conditions—that is, in a relatively dry climate—northern grasses can be pushed much farther south than they can in humid regions. It would be an easy matter for you to test out creeping bent under your conditions, by planting a small plat of it, say 10 or 15 feet square.

2. SEEDING BERMUDA GRASS GREENS; CONSTRUCTING COMPOST BEDS.—We have purchased Arizona Bermuda grass seed for seeding nine new greens