Coming District Green Section Meetings

A meeting of the Philadelphia Green Section will be held on June 23 at the Whitemarsh Valley Country Club, Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia. The meeting is to be very largely a demonstration of equipment of various kinds, to be followed by a short session after the dinner. Further information may be obtained from the Service Bureau, Philadelphia Green Section, 508 Harrison Building, Philadelphia.

The Green Section meeting of the Central Illinois Country Club Association, to be held at Peoria, previously announced for June 22, has been postponed until the afternoon of June 25. Further information may be obtained from Mr. Ross P. Seaton, Country Club of Peoria, Grand View Drive, Peoria.

The regular monthly meeting of the St. Louis District Green Association will be held on June 26 at the St. Clair Country Club, East St. Louis. Further information may be obtained from Mr. W. L. Pfeffer, Superior Manufacturing and Supply Co., 512 Lucas Avenue, St. Louis.

Washington Bent

By C. V. Piper

There has been a great deal of complaint because bent stolons purchased as "Washington bent" have not been true to name, but have proved to be some inferior strain. This is a matter over which unfortunately the Green Section can exercise no supervision. One must rely on the care and the integrity of the dealer. Perhaps the only way out of the difficulty is to demand a guarantee of some sort. At least one dealer in stolons is willing to await payment from each of his customers until he is satisfied.

Some people distributing Washington bent are perhaps under the impression that any strain of bent which has come from Washington is Washington bent. This is erroneous. Washington bent is a particular pure strain which is the best of all creeping bents thus far found.

If you have had unsatisfactory experience with Washington bent, the chances are that you did not have the genuine thing.

The Maintenance of Vegetative Bent Greens

There are only four things important in keeping vegetative greens in perfect condition, namely: (1) topdressing; (2) ammonium sulfate or ammonium phosphate; (3) ample watering; and (4) keeping the grass cut short.

1. Topdressing should begin in spring as soon as the grass starts to grow. Use 1 cubic yard of compost to each 5,000 square feet of turf. Thereafter topdress once each month during the growing season. Not more than one-fifth of the compost should be manure.

2. Use ammonium sulfate or ammonium phosphate mixed in each topdressing. Use 25 pounds to each cubic yard of compost up until the time of warm weather, then reduce to 15 pounds, or in very hot weather to 10 pounds. Thus mixed there is no likelihood of burning the grass. However, it should always be watered in. After a certain degree of acidity is reached, clover and other weeds disappear and worms cease to trouble.

3. Water enough to keep the grass vigorous. In the brown-patch
season, watering before sunrise with a strong stream helps greatly to prevent brown-patch injury.

4. The grass should be kept cut short. It is well to mow every day.

The above are the methods adopted on the experimental plots at Arlington after a great deal of experimenting. Do not do anything else than advised above.

Washington bent is still the best strain.

Acid Soils for Putting Green Grasses*

By R. A. Oakley

Since the subject of acid soils has been brought very prominently to the attention of greenkeepers recently it would appear helpful to discuss it at this time in a very popular way. Farmers and other plant-culturists very generally have the notion that acid soils ("sour soils," as they call them) constitute one of the greatest drawbacks to crop plant production. The following is typical of a very large number of inquiries which reach the Green Section: "The turf on our greens is poor. We think the soil must be sour." It seems to be true that many of our important crop plants thrive better on soils that are neutral or slightly alkaline than they do on acid soils; but it is not correct to generalize from this that all plants prefer soils that are non-acid. As for our cultivated turf grasses, notwithstanding the many years they have been grown and studied it is regrettable but true that their soil relations so far as acidity is concerned have in no case been critically determined. It appears to be true, however, that at least the bents and fescues—that is, the ones that we use in making putting greens—are so constituted as to thrive vigorously on acid soils. When it is said that the soil relations of our turf grasses, so far as acidity is concerned, have not been scientifically determined, it is with full appreciation of the fact that there is almost an overwhelming notion that Kentucky bluegrass is a species that requires a so-called sweet soil for its best growth. Furthermore, it is very generally thought that it requires a soil well supplied with lime. It is not the intention here to attempt to break down this view. It is merely wished to call attention to some points which should be borne in mind. They are these: Largely because Kentucky bluegrass grows so abundantly and well on the limestone soils in the northeastern one-fourth of the United States and under similar conditions elsewhere, it has more or less naturally been assumed that it requires sweet soils with much lime in them for its best development. The fact that these soils are what we call rich soils, for reasons not directly related to their lime content, has not been taken fully into account. There is abundant evidence to indicate that what Kentucky bluegrass requires for its best growth is a rich soil, and some evidence to indicate that such soil need not be sweet in the commonly accepted sense of the term. For example, in certain parts of the Pacific Northwest on soils that are acid and low in lime content, Kentucky bluegrass flourishes abundantly. There is also some experimental evidence to support the view that Kentucky bluegrass can be grown with much success on acid soils if they are rich in what is called available plant food. We hope to get some very definite data on this subject from experiments already under way. This may mean much to us in developing a practice of fertilizing bluegrass fairways with the view to controlling weeds.

* A part of a paper read at the Annual Meeting of the Green Section, New York City, January 10, 1925.