

Experience of the Kirtland Country Club with Creeping Bent Greens

By Arthur Boggs

In the fall of 1923 we planted 18 holes with Washington bent stolons; we have gone through the usual rank growth of fluffy conditions found in this type of grass.

On the advice of the U. S. Green Section we checked the rank growth by the use of poor soil which produced a slower and finer growth.

By the use of sharp rakes and topdressing the fluffy condition was entirely overcome.

This season we have been using wire push brooms once or twice a month before topdressing.

We have found that a green with much slope produces a grain or nap when raked or brushed corrects this condition but leaves such a fast putting surface that it is impossible to hold a long putt near the hole from the top of the green. By allowing the green to grow a little longer than the others you have an untrue surface and we have proved that this type of grass has to be cut short if you want a true putting surface.

There are a great many things to be said in favor of this type of grass, and most important:

1. All greens should be made with as little slope as possible.
2. The maintenance cost is much less than any other type of green.
3. It will stand more punishment and abuse.
4. With the intelligent use of sulfate of ammonia your weed problems are solved.
5. You are able to keep 18 putting surfaces just alike in texture and color.
6. With a well drained and properly constructed green any number of golfers can play on it during the wet weather without injury to the grass or the putting surface.
7. A ball that is hit true on a line for the hole will drop.
8. It is true that a golfer coming from a seeded green has trouble adjusting his putting touch, as Washington strain creeping bent green requires the most accurate kind of a hit and he earns every putt.

The objections to this type of green comes mostly from golfers that are used to a slow putting surface and greens that have a mixed grass.

1. Too fast a green is the first objection.
2. When the ball rims the cup it does not fall in.
3. There is nothing on the green to give you the line such as a weed or different color that is found on mixed seeded greens.
4. On a sloping green it is impossible to hold a ball putting down hill.

We have five greens out of 18 that have severe slopes and this fall before grading and remaking these greens we are going to plant them with creeping bent seed to try and slow them up. If this mixture will do the work the greens will be left as they are and we will have avoided the expense of regrading.