



Bob Williams (left), President of the Golf Course Superintendents' Association, presents an Award of Merit to Norman Kramer, superintendent of the Silver Lake Golf Club, Orland Park, Ill., in recognition of his meritorious work in preparing the course for the USGA Amateur Public Links Championship last month.

Keeping Bentgrass Pure

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It is becoming increasingly apparent that a sod nursery is extremely important in the maintenance and upkeep of the present day golf course. The nursery is often referred to as an "insurance policy."

Sod nurseries are maintained for different purposes. Most superintendents maintain a nursery of turf for use in repairing putting greens, and a nursery for such use is no doubt of prime importance. It is, however, becoming more of a general practice to maintain nurseries for replacement of turf on tees, and occasionally a fairway turf nursery is found.

There are many different methods and practices used in maintaining bentgrass

nurseries. The fact that bent seedlings are usually not like the parent, presents one of the major problems encountered when working with this grass. If any given strain is to be kept pure, it must not be allowed to "go to seed."

Mr. Clem Coble, golf course superintendent at Broadmoor Country Club, Indianapolis, Indiana, for 35 years, has been maintaining the same strain of Washington bent since he obtained it from the Green Section at the Arlington Turf Gardens in 1924.

Mr. Coble maintains a sod nursery under putting green conditions. Sod is removed for various uses on the course from year to year. One of Mr. Coble's

primary interests is to be certain that he has a supply of his true Washington bent to restolonize the area from which the sod has been removed.

During the early part of September an area approximately 50 feet long and 25 feet wide is tilled. Four rows of stolons obtained from the previous year's growth are sprigged into the area. The rows are 50 feet long and 4 feet apart. Fifty pounds of a mixture of 50% milorganite and 50% 6-12-12 are applied to the area and it is thoroughly watered.

The area is roped off and receives very little attention until the following September. It receives water only under extreme drought conditions.

The following September and prior to seed head formation, the four rows of stolons have almost grown together. A sod knife is run under each row and all the previous year's growth is thoroughly removed. The stolons are pulled apart by hand and any foreign growth such as crabgrass is discarded.

Selected vigorous stolons are planted into rows, following the same pattern of the previous fall. The remainder of stolons is used to replenish the sod nursery, to stolonize a new green or part of a green, or the excess material is given to a club member.

By following this pattern for the past 30 odd years, Mr. Coble believes he has been able to maintain his original plant-

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ing stock—unchanged. Needless to say he has a beautiful strain of bent.

An odd characteristic of this grass is that when a new area adjacent to an older established area is stolonized it will take up to five years for the two areas to develop the same color. The newly stolonized area usually retains a lighter shade of green for a few years.

Doubtless there are other good methods for maintaining a pure stock of a grass suited to a particular use. This method, as practiced by Mr. Coble, is successful and time-tested. It is described here with the thought that it may be helpful to some who may wish to have a pattern for nursery maintenance.

Golf Course Measurements

When the week-end golfer finds himself lying "two" on the green of a 500 yard hole, he is likely to glow with pride about the way he is hitting the ball. But if he is perfectly honest with himself and is inclined to be realistic, he may be just a little skeptical about how the distance was measured. His skepticism might be well-founded because there seems to be a diversity of opinion concerning the proper way to measure the distance between teeing ground and putting green.

It is important to the golf course superintendent to know also the area of his greens, tees, bunkers, etc. Only by having accurate measurements of such areas can he determine the rates of application of fungicides, fertilizers and other materials.

The distance of golf holes should be the "air line" distance from one point

to another. In other words the contours of the ground line should not enter into the computation. Such measurements may be obtained by use of a surveyor's transit with range finder, by using a steel tape held horizontally so that it is not affected by contours, or by the use of a map or photo made to scale wherein a scale rule may be used to determine yardage from point to point.

The last mentioned method has many points in its favor. By the process of reconciling previously measured distances between recognizable objects appearing in an aerial photograph, it is possible to produce a photograph or a map to a precise scale, so that distances between two given points may be measured easily and accurately.

Measurements of golf hole yardages