

### Have You a District Green Section?

There are now in the United States about ten District Green Sections. There ought to be about fifty, at least one in each state, and more in states where there are two or more large golf centers. The advantages of a District Green Section are large and immediate. Most of the existing District Golf Associations perform no other service than arranging tournaments and fixing handicaps—a function that consumes but little time and effort. Every District Golf Association should foster a Green Section for its district. It can very properly establish the District Green Section as a feature of the District Golf Association and thus add greatly to its usefulness, besides increasing its prestige to no small degree.

Such an organization can do much to bring about better results by discouraging the use of improper materials and of faulty methods, all leading to physical betterment in the upkeep of golf courses. In the final analysis this depends on the efficiency of the greenkeeper. Therefore he should be assisted in every way practicable. Stimulating the greenkeepers in each section to form a Greenkeepers' Club is a very helpful plan.

In the extension of the work of the United States Golf Association Green Section, the various District Green Sections have been most potent factors. At the present time there are seven such organizations in active work and at least three others in process of formation. There should be a District Green Section for each important golf center, or, in the absence of that, at least one for each state.

The District Green Sections carry on various activities not included in the work of the United States Golf Association Green Section. A very important function is that of purchasing supplies through a central agency, which not only results in much actual money saving to the clubs, but also tends to prevent them from buying things that should not be purchased.

Two of the very successful district green sections are those of Cleveland and of Philadelphia. The organization and the activities of each of these are described in this issue of *THE BULLETIN*. The information given should prove most useful to other golf centers contemplating the organization of a green section.

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### Creeping Bent and Seaside Bent

These two grasses are not the same, but very similar. The former is the grass that comes in South German mixed bent seed, and to which belong, among others, the strains called Washington, Metropolitan, and Columbia.

Seaside bent occurs both in Europe and in America, mostly in marsh lands and on beaches along the seacoast. In America it occurs on the Atlantic Coast seashores in large areas from the mouth of the St. Lawrence to Norfolk, Virginia; on the Pacific Coast, from British Columbia to California. Seed has been harvested at the following places: Prince Edward Island, Canada; Revere Beach, Massachusetts; Seattle, Washington; Bellingham, Washington; and Coos Bay, Oregon.

At Arlington Farm have been tested over several years the strain from Revere Beach (now called the Revere strain) and that from Bellingham, Washington. The two are not the same. While both form turf of the same excellence as creeping bent, the Revere proves highly resistant to

brown-patch, while the Bellingham strain is quite badly injured. There is as yet no sufficiently long test with any of the others to determine how brown-patch affects them. Apart from this factor there can be no question as to their excellence as turf-formers.

For clubs located in Canada or the northern tier of states, there need be no hesitancy in using seed of seaside bent from any source, so long as it is genuine. Farther south, where brown-patch is troublesome, there is some risk involved, as some strains of seaside bent are likely to be susceptible to this disease. While Revere bent is strongly resistant to brown-patch, it does not follow at all that other strains are equally resistant. It is greatly to be hoped that such will prove to be the case; but until it is demonstrated, the above words of caution should be heeded.

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## Some Things We Have Learned About Brown-Patch

By R. A. Oakley

While we behold the brown-patch disease of turf with a much calmer attitude than we beheld it a few years ago, nevertheless it constitutes one of our most serious and perplexing putting green problems. We are more complacent with regard to it now than formerly, because it has not proved to be an overwhelming trouble, and furthermore we have made some progress toward its control.

No one who has studied brown-patch sufficiently to know it well has any doubt as to its cause. That it is due to a fungous organism has been definitely proved. Whether the large form of brown-patch and the small form are due to the same specific fungus but to different strains, or to different species of fungi, is not a settled point; but this is not a highly important matter so far as greenkeeping is concerned.

The progress that has been made in the control of brown-patch has been chiefly along three lines: (1) the use of fungicides, (2) cultural treatment not involving the use of fungicides, and (3) the selection and use of resistant strains of creeping bent for putting greens.

After brown-patch was recognized as a true disease of turf, attention at once was directed to the use of fungicides for its control. Bordeaux mixture was the first one to be tried, and experience has shown it to be the best for the purpose of those commonly employed in horticultural practice. But Bordeaux has not proved to be wholly satisfactory. If used frequently and properly it has considerable merit as a preventive and a check for the large brown-patch, but it is apparently of little value in the control of small brown-patch.

Bordeaux, to be effective against large brown-patch, must be on the leaves and stems of the grass at times when conditions are favorable for the growth of the fungus. To have it thus present, grass must be sprayed or dusted with it after rains and after watering and mowing while the critical brown-patch season is on. Without doubt vigilance and intelligence in the use of Bordeaux will go far toward controlling large brown-patch, but the treatment is expensive in the labor to apply it. Furthermore, as has been cautioned, it is easily possible to apply such a large total quantity of Bordeaux in a season that poisoning will result. This poisoning is a soil trouble which requires rather drastic measures to cure. While spraying is a more effective way to apply Bordeaux than is dusting, the latter is the easier and cheaper method. Two pounds of dry Bordeaux