

Annual Meeting of the Green Section

The annual meeting of the permanent members and delegates to the Green Section of the United States Golf Association will be held at the Drake Hotel, Chicago, at 2 p. m. Friday, January 8, 1926. The annual meeting of the United States Golf Association will be held the day following at 4 p. m. at the same place. This will make it possible to devote the afternoon of January 8 and the forenoon of the following day to Green Section matters. Each member club of the Green Section is urged to be represented at the meetings by its delegates, and to send also its greenkeeper and members of its green committee as far as possible. There will be both formal and informal discussions of matters of interest in greenkeeping and in the furtherance of the work of the Green Section. An interesting and instructive program will be provided, one feature of which will be a symposium on the subject of vegetative putting greens.

The Playing Quality of Vegetative Bent Greens

By George Sargent, Scioto Country Club, Columbus, Ohio

Bent stolon putting greens have certainly caused a lot of discussion during the past season. As with lots of other things on this earth of ours, at first sight it seemed to everyone that in the vegetative bent green we had found perfection, while on second sight one felt that after all it did not pay to try to build castles in the air and that it is much better to start one's foundation on solid ground.

A good bent green has always been accepted as the best type of putting green that is humanly attainable. Before the discovery of the stolon method of producing bent greens, the only two methods known of getting a bent green were either to grow it from seed or to cut patches from fairways and transfer them to the putting greens. Each of these methods was so slow that it required almost an entire lifetime for a greenkeeper to get a real bent green. This lack of speed naturally did not meet with the approval of either the chairmen of green committees or golfers in general. The result was that clubs had to be more or less content with the cow-pasture style of putting greens, with a mixture of whatever you could get to grow—usually bluegrass, redtop, and clover, with probably a patch of bent here and a patch of fescue at some other place. The main thing then about the upkeep of putting greens was to get the grass to live through the summer and to keep it in such condition that it presented a fairly decent putting surface.

It is small wonder then that when the bent stolon method of establishing putting green turf was discovered, golfers in general, with a 20-year-old bent putting green in mind, jumped to the conclusion that days of bad putting greens were about over, as with the new vegetative method of planting bent greens such a green could be established in a few weeks or months and with assurance that a real bent putting green would be produced. It happened however that too many rushed headlong into the new method without inquiring much as to where they were going, with the result that they fell head over heels and are now busy picking themselves up. These mistakes have given critics a wonderful opportunity to swing their hammers; and bent stolon putting greens have been knocked pretty badly during the past year.