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Bent Greens in Southern Virginia and North Carolina

There has always been a question whether the bent-grasses were practicable for use in putting greens as far south as southern Virginia and North Carolina except in the mountains. Mr. W. E. Barret, president of the Hermitage Country Club, Richmond, Va., has demonstrated the value of creeping bent at Richmond. His experiences are of considerable interest in this connection, and he has kindly consented that The Bulletin publish a copy of his letter of July 24, 1926, to Mr. C. G. Holland, president of the Piedmont Green-Committeemen's Association, of Danville, Va. His letter follows:

"Our experience here at the Hermitage Country Club with the creeping bent greens is highly satisfactory. We began these experiments about four years ago, when we planted a nursery with several different strains of creeping bent given us by Dr. Oakley from the Arlington Experimental plots.

"Our No. 17 green, planted with stolons of the Washington strain, is three years old, and is now and has been for more than two years an almost perfect putting green. Last October we put in four additional greens from Washington strain creeping bent stolons, and we began putting on these greens in May. They have done beautifully up until two weeks ago, when some of them developed a rather severe attack of brown-patch. However they are recovering from this and are still good greens, and I am sure in about a month's time, when the bent-grass begins its fall growth, they will be better than ever. Of course creeping bent-grass is subject to the brown-patch disease, but notwithstanding this it is far more satisfactory and less expensive to maintain than Bermuda or redtop or bluegrass or white clover or any combination of these grasses.

"Experience has taught us that we can not count on getting a good putting green at Richmond from Bermuda before July, and in an unfavorable season not before August. The Bermuda of course browns in November, and by early spring all of it above ground has largely rotted away and is unfit for putting, so that in the important golf months of March, April, May and June the conditions are very bad. With the most favorable season and everything working just right we can have good greens here from Bermuda for the five months of July to November, inclusive, but this means seven months out of the twelve with miserable putting conditions.

"It is probable, in my judgment, that you can have just as good creeping bent greens at Danville as have been grown in the latitude of Richmond, and I also believe the same would apply to Greensboro and Winston-Salem (North Carolina.) It was thought for some time that Richmond was too far south for this grass to succeed, but with

your higher altitude and naturally better grass conditions, creeping bent should do just as well with you as it does with us. If it can be grown by you successfully you can feel well assured that no other grass is worth a moment's consideration.

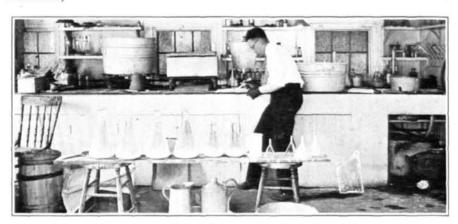
"I might add that we are now arranging to put all the rest of our

greens in bent this fall."

The Experiment in Grub-Proofing Turf at Riverton, N. J.

By B. R. Leach and J. W. Lipp

An account of previous work in this experiment was published in The Bulletin for February, 1926 (pages 34 to 39.) The accompanying illustrations show the progress of the work to date. There is a total of 105 experimental plots in the area occupied by the experiments, each plot being 10 feet square. A definite treatment as regards the amount and depth of application of the poison is being given to each of the plots. The grasses under test include creeping bent, German mixed bent, Canada bluegrass, and rough-stalked bluegrass (*Poa trivialis*.)



Preparing one of the poisons used in grub-proofing turf.



Plowing the ground for the experimental plots, Riverton (N. J.) Country Club. This is a piece of the rough which had not been plowed for many years. Sandy loam soil.