

All-The-Year-Around-Greens

By W. G. Thomas, Charlotte Country Club, Charlotte, N. C.

In trying to work out a satisfactory solution of the all-the-year-around putting greens, our Committee has done considerable experimenting. Our greens were originally all Bermuda, and by careful attention could be kept in good playing condition during the growing period of Bermuda grass, which normally in our location is from about May 1 to November 15. During the balance of the year we were forced to make use of temporary greens heavily sanded. These proved very unsatisfactory, since it was almost impossible to keep enough sand on the greens to make a satisfactory putting surface on account of the frequent rains and winds that this section is subject to during the winter months.

Our first trial was with Italian rye-grass sown on the Bermuda greens in November. This method was discarded mainly on account of our failure in getting a smooth putting surface and the retarding effect it had on the growth of the Bermuda in the early spring months. Our next move was to try redtop mixed with fescue, which proved somewhat more successful, but was not entirely satisfactory for two reasons: first, it was difficult to get a good stand; second, the trouble encountered in getting the fescue out of the Bermuda the next spring and summer. It has a tendency to grow in tufts which make the greens very rough. Finally we tried redtop alone, which has proved very satisfactory during the past winter and spring.

Between October 1 and 15 prepare one-half of the regular putting green for planting as follows:

By use of heavy rakes tear up the Bermuda grass on the surface, cut as closely as possible with mowers, and then topdress over this area to the extent of $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch or $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch deep. Smooth off very carefully and then sow at the rate of 5 to 7 pounds of redtop per 1,000 square feet; cover by running the back of the rake lightly over the surface, then roll with a light roller. Water immediately if the ground is dry—continue to water throughout the winter if needed, just as you do your summer greens. To obtain the best results the young grass should be given a topdressing of sandy loam soil mixed with sulfate of ammonia when about a month old, then repeat once or twice a month thereafter.

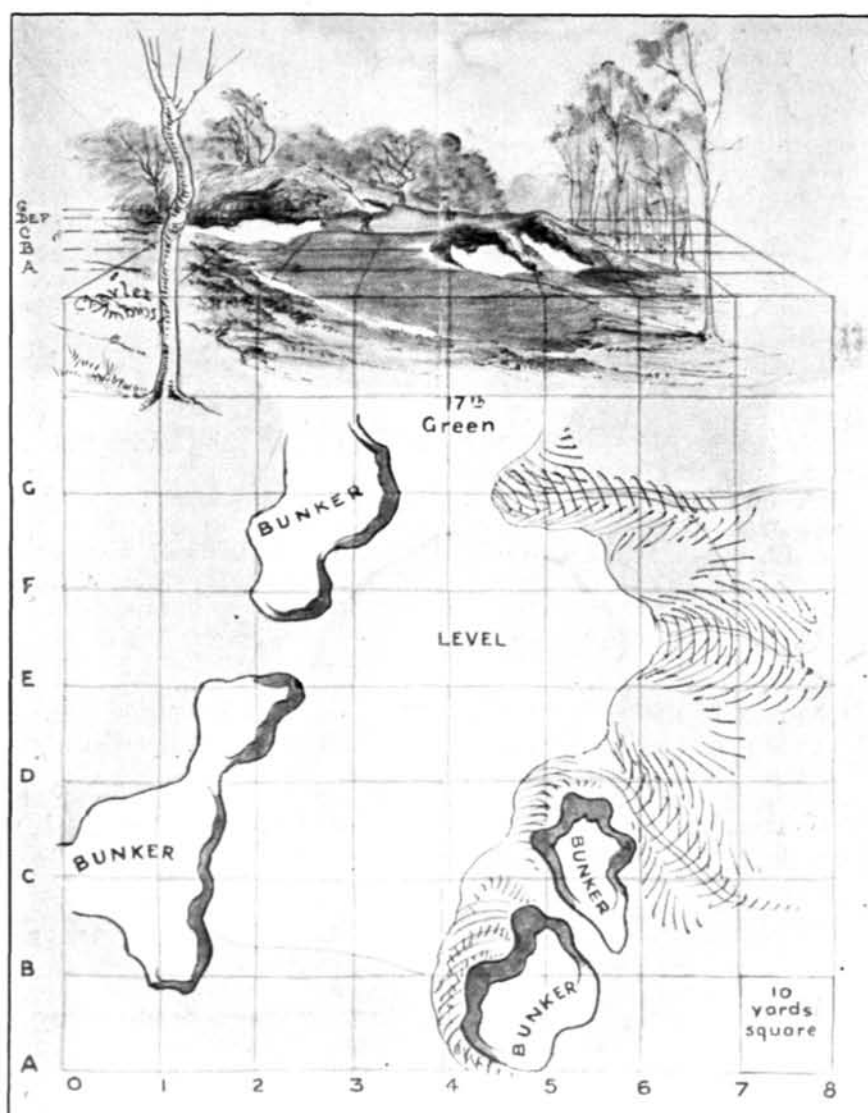
The redtop will furnish a splendid putting surface from about January 1 until June 15. At this time the redtop will begin to turn yellow, and it will gradually die out, no matter how much watering you give it.

The pure Bermuda grass side of your green by this time will be in condition to take care of all your play until the spots on the redtop side have been filled in, by planting Bermuda in them, preferably by the vegetative method.

We have found that a compost made of two-thirds sandy loam and one-third rotted cotton motes makes a very fine topdressing. These motes are secured mostly from a local cotton waste plant and sometimes from a cotton mattress factory. The compost is made in the same manner as if stable manure were used. We have found that about six months is all the time needed to properly rot the motes, which is a much shorter time than with stable manure. Sulfate of ammonia may be added to this mixture with good results.

This year the Women's Southern Championship was played in May at the Charlotte Country Club. The Southern Golfer commented on the condition of the course as follows: "Of course, the Charlotte Country Club, by some wizardry, always has greens, even when the others in this section are burned into a crisp by droughts, and although they were still on the winter greens, these were level and true as in midsummer."—Editors.

A British Golf Course Architect's Plan



Plans in both two and three dimensions, similar to that shown above are used by at least one firm of British course architects. Their advantages over the usual two dimension plans are great, not only to the man in charge of construction but to the committee, whose approval of the plans is required, in visualizing the architect's idea