

THE CONN. CLIPPINGS



JUNE 1973

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VELVET BENTGRASS THE PUTTER'S DELIGHT

by Richard Hurley
University of Rhode Island

Velvet bentgrass, *Agrostis canina*, is widely acclaimed as the most exquisite of all sports turfs. Not only does the species have a superb appearance, but professional golfers have rated it the number one putting surface in actual test. Velvet bentgrass is well named, for golf greens of it are so dense and 'fine-textured' as to be indeed like velvet.

The new Kingstown variety of velvet bentgrass results from a quarter century of breeding and selection at the University of Rhode Island. This stylish, highly uniform cultivar, as true-putting as greens can be, stems from a single seed selected from a selfed plant of the Piper variety.

Unlike most of the creeping bentgrass greens grasses, which must be planted vegetatively from living stolons, Kingstown velvet bentgrass is available as conveniently handled seed bred remarkably true-to-type. Top quality seed is free of weeds and from crop. Wider use of velvet bentgrass can be anticipated, now that commercial supplies of Kingstown seed have become available. Seeding is economical, in that only one pound of seed per thousand square feet is needed.

SPECIES ADAPTION

Velvet bentgrass has undeservedly had a reputation for being hard-to-manage. We haven't found this to be so in Rhode Island. At Melody Hill, as on the research grounds at the University of Rhode Island, Kingstown velvet bent has proven dense, deep-rooting and reasonably free from afflictions without a lot of special care. It's not a heavy feeder, withstands rea-

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THE GRASSCATCHER

by Bob Osterman

Congratulations to Dick Bater, Superintendent at Pittsfield Country Club, for having successfully passed his National Certification Test.

Not only has Dick been busy studying, but been busy on his course as well. He has many projects underway or anticipated in the near future. Following is a list of some of his projects:

- A. Complete rebuilding and up-date of present pump house. This will be done in order that he may, hopefully, expand and modernize his present manual system.
 - B. Rebuild and resod, with Penn-cross bent, 5 of his worst tees. He will be on a 3 to 5 year tee program.
 - C. Extending his tree planting program to approximately 80 trees a year for the next few years.
 - D. This is his second year of treatment on his elms for dutch elm control, with Benlate. Dick says it is too soon to tell of what benefit this program will be.
- Good luck, Dick!

A really great time was had by all who attended our picnic May 19th in Hamden. Someone wedged a beautiful day in between all the "dirty four letter word" stuff. We did have more people show up than last year, but it was again sad to see how many members passed this day up. The food was great, the kids (big and small) had a great time, and although we had no broken legs, ribs cracked, black eyes etc., we did have a good softball game. I am not sure what team won, John Callahan's or Dick Hoskings, and I am not sure they know either.

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NATIONAL AFFAIRS FIRST CALL

NOMINATIONS FOR GCSAA OFFICERS

It is time once again to consider your chapter's participation in the election of GCSAA officers and directors.

This is the first call to the chapters requesting nominations for the offices of President, Vice-President, and director of GCSAA.

At its spring meeting the GCSAA Executive Committee confirmed the appointment of Past-President Richard C. Blake as Nominating Committee Chairman for 1974. Other members of the Committee include Mr. Robert Williams, Illinois; Mr. Richard Valentine, Pennsylvania; Mr. Garold Murphy, Minnesota; and Mr. Roger Larson, California.

This committee is charged with the responsibility of preparing a slate of candidates for these officers by October 1, 1973. This slate will be filed by them at the next annual election. In order to accomplish this, the committee must have your nominations by September 1, 1973.

The attachment to this action request delineates the major roles and responsibilities of the Executive Committee and its members. Also, Article VI, Section 1 of the GCSAA Bylaws specifies the qualifications for office.

The GCSAA's success or failure is wholly dependent on its leadership. Let's seek out those qualified and talented members within the Association who can lead and contribute to the continued success of GCSAA. Let's encourage them to seriously consider candidacy for these offices. There is always a need for good men at the top. This is your opportunity to really participate in the future of the Association. Make yourself heard! You can be sure that each nomination will be

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CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS

President Robert Viera
Vice President Frank Lamphier
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Treasurer James MacDonald

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Roger Barrett John Lynch
Fred Bachand Bob Osterman
Karnig Oviaan Robert Tosh
Charles Baskin

The object of this association is to promote research, education and an exchange of practical experiences in the field of turf grass culture so that the increased knowledge will lead to more economic and efficient management of golf courses and related turf areas.

The CONN. CLIPPINGS is an official publication of the Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents.

Robert W. Osterman, Editor
937 Black Rock Turnpike
Easton, Conn. 06612

VELVET BENTGRASS THE PUTTER'S DELIGHT

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sonable drought and shade. Of course like any top bentgrass, Kingstown is deserving of knowledgeable attention.

The species is widely adapted to moist climates, and although tolerant of extremes does best where weather is steady (neither suddenly cold nor hot, and without desiccating winds).

Kingstown is rather particular about acid soil, and resents an alkaline pH.

Good drainage (aeration) is helpful.

Although it is not difficult to adjust maintenance to Kingstown's needs, the cultivar can be expected to perform most satisfactorily east of the Appalachians from coastal Virginia northward, along the Pacific coast north from San Francisco, and in similar "maritime" environments around bodies of water such as the Great Lakes.

As with any golf green bentgrass, Kingstown should be mowed frequently, at least every other day at the height of the growing season. Mowing is customarily 3/16-1/4 inch tall for lawns.

The grass should receive moderate, steady fertilization such as with slow-release ureaform products. A complete fertilizer containing about a half pound of nitrogen is suggested each few weeks, totaling three or four pounds of nitrogen annually. Light liming may help with thatch breakdown, but be careful to hold pH well on the acid side.

MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Disease and pest damage is apt to be superficial, but precautionary fungicidal sprayings should be undertaken with Kingstown the same as with any high quality golf green turf. Recommended rates should be carefully observed in applying chemicals to control disease.

Thatch is controllable by the usual practices or aerification, moderate fertilization and top dressing (top-dress lightly and work the material into the grass, not always easy with so tight a turf).

Irrigation will be required if rainfall is not sufficient to supply about an inch of moisture each week during the growing season.

Melody Hill Golf Course, Harmony, Rhode Island, affords a specific case history of the use of Kingstown velvet bentgrass.

Melody Hill greens were seeded to Kingstown six years ago, and have proven eminently satisfactory. When time for Melody Hill expansion arrived, Charles Mandeville, owner and superintendent, insisted that the nine new greens be seeded to Kingstown. This was in spite of the more or less automatic inclusion of another bentgrass in architectural specifications.

Melody Hill greens are mowed at one-quarter inch three times weekly. They are aerified annually, in the autumn, and are lightly top-dressed, approximately on a monthly basis. Even in exceptionally dry summers the greens are watered only once per week. Fungicides are applied only when disease is clearly a threat.

When visiting the Melody Hill golf course in August the greens were outstandingly beautiful. Mandeville as the time. He concludes, "I highly sured us that this is the case most of recommend this greens grass — if you question its performance, ask the golfers — they will tell you how true the greens putt."

SPECIAL MERIT AWARD

Each year, the GCSAA Executive Committee will consider nominations for the GCSAA Special Merit Award at its Fall Meeting.

To be accepted for the Special Merit Award, a nominee must meet the following qualifications:

1. Must have made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of the profession of Golf Course Superintendency.
2. The outstanding contribution may be, or have been, regional in nature as long as it can be judged

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THE GRASSCATCHER

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All news concerning members of our association, their successes, their problems, their new babies, their sicknesses etc., is gratefully accepted by your editor. Inform him either on your return monthly meeting cards, or by dropping a note in the mail.

CAGCS HANDICAP

The following are the handicaps for the start of the 1973 season.

Flight "A"

Anderson	15	Lowell	0
Ajello		Manning	10
Barrett, R.	6	O'Connor	15
Bedus	6	Oviaan K.	10
Berry	8	Oviaan, Kay	7
Bianowitz	13	Oviaan, M.	12
Bonner	13	Parsons	15
Caswell	12	Perry	12
Chaney	8	Polidor	15
Cook	10	Queen	14
Coste	11	Rodgers	15
Dinwoodie	15	Roule	9
Dolan	8	Ryan	7
Dziedzie	11	Scully, Ray	8
Fenn	8	Scully, Bob	10
Furgess	13	Thompson	7
Goodwin	14	Viera	9
Gorton	14	Warner	8
Grywalski	11	Whalen	15
Gutlay	15	Wiget	10
Kowalski, B.	7	Wilson	15
Kowalski, L.	8	Witkowski	5
Kristof	12	Zwolic	13
Kruk	12	Mierzwa	14
Lamphier	4		

Flight "B"

Bachand	28	Lynch	30
Barrett, P.	17	Meusel	22
Baskin	16	McDonald	24
Bator	16	Osterman	19
Bidwell	22	Pepe	27
Chalifour	22	Sandin	35
Christie	21	Silva	18
Dest	20	Stimson	24
Hawkins	23	Suchinski	16
Kelliher	36	Tosh	18
Knoblock	20	Whitley	23
Lodzinski	21	Wiacek	21
Lentine	20	Wydra, A.	24
Lesage	16	Wydra, J.	18
Loper	23	Zinisky	31
Lindermuth	20		

Associates

Arison	20	Sanson	17
Bryant	14	Scully	28
Callahan	24	Sherman	16
Carson	16	Somers	13
Colt	16	Terhune	23
Cubbage	35	Russell	30
Downey	12	Ryz	10
Hosking	30	Wallace	31
Kennedy	9	Wright	30
Purdy	30		

NATIONAL AFFAIRS FIRST CALL

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given every consideration.

Remember! All nominations must be received by Past-President Blake by September 1, 1973. His address is:

Mr. Richard C. Blake
21 Seawall Street
Boylston, Maine 01505

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES REQUIRED OF A MEMBER OF THE GCSAA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee is responsible for mobilizing the resources of the Association to achieve Association objectives. It is the function of the Committee to see that the talents and energies of members are enlisted in association committees, that program objectives are assigned to committees and that the responsibility and authority of committees are clearly defined.

The Executive Committee is the policy-forming portion of the Association. It authorizes the organization's program of work, approves its budget, receives and passes on Committee recommendations, and directs the general operations of the Association.

Members of the Executive Committee must not only recognize the democratic character of the organization

it also believe strongly in voluntary cooperative effort in solving Association problems. They must respect the collective judgment of interested members on Association problems. They must recognize the unique problem-solving power that is created when the time and talents of the members are mobilized to action through their Association.

Members of the Executive Committee are delegated the very real responsibility for representing the entire Association's membership in advancing the cause of the golf course superintendent. While the Executive Committee is expected to be cognizant of regional problems or special interest groups within the Association, its prime responsibility is to the membership as a whole.

Members of the Executive Committee are not expected to "do all the thinking" for the organization, of course. It is their responsibility to maintain close contact with members and with other leaders in the industry. Such contacts provide a sound basis for identifying the most important needs of the golf turf maintenance

profession, for determining the specific objectives toward which the Association should work and for developing a program of activities that will develop maximum progress in attain-

ing the established goals of the membership.

The GCSAA Bylaws charge the Association President with the responsibility of appointing the various committees necessary to carry on the work of the Association with such appointments subject to the approval of the Executive Committee. Wherever possible, the President will appoint a member of the Executive Committee as chairman of an Association committee in order that close liaison between the committee and the Executive Committee be maintained. By the same token, this liaison works in the other direction, serving to stimulate and maintain the drive necessary to accomplish committee objectives.

Many occasions arise when a member of the Executive Committee must serve as official or unofficial spokesman. This responsibility requires the exercise of careful judgment for a director's own personal views sometimes differ from policies or official positions adopted by the Association. In such cases, of course, the director must use great care not to express his personal views as representing the views of the Association or in a manner in which his views might be misinterpreted as representing the views of the Association.

During his term of office, each Executive Committee member may expect to encounter criticism of the Executive Committee or the Association. He has an obligation to the Association, of course, to defend it against such criticism or, if the criticism is justified, to initiate action that may eliminate the cause of the criticism. An Executive Committee member can frequently make a distinct contribution to the well-being of his Association by bringing to the attention of the Executive Committee both the critical and constructive suggestions he receives from members in local chapters. By doing so, he enables his Association to become an even more useful and effective organization in making his profession a more attractive and more meaningful function in golf.

Members of the Executive Committee serve their Association without pay although expenses incurred while engaged in Executive Committee activities are fully reimbursed. They also are required to attend four Executive Committee meetings and the annual GCSAA Turfgrass Conference and Show each year. This will necessitate being absent from their place of employment an average of eighteen days. Other Executive Committee involve-

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MULCHING WITH GARBAGE

Research at Auburn University Agricultural Experiment Station has revealed that processed garbage is a suitable material for mulching ornamental plants. These experiments, under a grant from the U.S. Public Health Service, found processed garbage mulches to be as effective as many other commonly used mulching materials.

There are several points favoring processed garbage mulches: (1) they are effective for more than 1 year; (2) they influence soil moisture, temperature, pH, and nutrition; (3) while being resistant to erosion, processed garbage mulches do not pack or mat; and (4) weed growth is reduced and plant response greatly improved by using it.

Each year the average American disposes of 1,600 lb. of solid wastes, primarily cloth, rubber, paper, metal, glass, and wood. Few cities attempt to reclaim any of these materials. In some cities the reusable materials, such as paper, rags, and metals, are being salvaged. The remaining refuse is ground and composted for use as a soil amendment, fertilizer, or mulch.

Auburn's research has used a compost produced by the City of Mobile. This processed garbage has a dark brown color, with large amounts of flexible and rigid plastic apparent. All glass is ground to a size that does not present a problem in handling. Overall texture of the product is somewhat granular. It is difficult to ignite with a match.

Chemical analysis (Spurway) of processed garbage shows nitrates of 2.5 p.p.m., phosphorus of 0.1 p.p.m., potassium of 20-40 p.p.m., and calcium of 150-300 p.p.m. The pH is 8.6 and highly resistant to change. It has a high salt content (solubridge reading — 1:5 dilution — has averaged 70 mhos), but the salts are easily leached.

Interest that generated experiments with processed garbage mulch was because of the large quantities of the material available that could be used in park and highway plantings. And these mulches have proved successful on numerous plant species.

No apparent differences were observed in the growth of petunias and garden chrysanthemums mulched with either processed garbage, sawdust, or pine straw. Leaf and flower color and plant size were comparable in all the mulches.

SPECIAL MERIT AWARD

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to have significantly advanced the profession nationally or internationally.

3. The nominee must not have been a recipient of this award during the preceding ten (10) years.

An individual(s) may be nominated by: A Chapter of GCSAA, and individual Class A or B member of this Association, the Association Planning Committee, or the Executive Committee.

This is an exceptional opportunity for you to participate in honoring a fellow Superintendent or others who have contributed significantly to the profession.

Very serious consideration will be given each nominee by your Executive Committee. You are encouraged to provide them with a comprehensive package of supportive data.

Please submit your nominations to this office by September 15, 1973. We will collect all nominations received at that time and forward them to the Chairman of the Public Relations and Awards Committee.

CAGCS WINNERS

Following is a list of tournament winners for the May meeting held at the Clinton Country Club in Clinton.

CLASS A

Gross — E. Bedus
Net — R. Parsons

CLASS B

Gross — B. Tosh
Net — A. Hawkins

ASSOC.

Gross — F. Downey
Net — D. Hosking

FOR THE DAY

Low Gross — F. Lamphier
Low Net — D. Hosking

KICKERS

F. Downey A. Hawkins
P. Casswell D. Hosking
T. Grywalski E. Anderson
F. Lamphier A. Wydra
R. Viera

The June tournament will be for the McLoughlin Trophy and will be held at New London Country Club. The July meeting will be at Shuttle Meadow Country Club and the Association Championship will be the tournament.

NATIONAL AFFAIRS FIRST CALL

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ment which would require travel is largely voluntary and can be tailored to suit the member.

In summary, the function of the Executive Committee and its members is to represent the interest of Association members as well as the interest of golf in general in a positive program of professional development. They must determine basic policy, set the general course of organization procedure, utilize the Association's manpower, make best use of all Association resources, appraise results of all actions, and inspire continuing action.

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Robert Osterman, *editor*
937 BLACK ROCK TURNPIKE
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