

The

Planting

and Care

of

Creeping
Bent



Soil Preparation. The same soil preparation is necessary as in planting grass seed; that is, the surface soil should be thoroughly pulverized, smoothed and rolled until a firm, uniform bed is obtained. Immediately before planting, the surface should be raked very lightly.

Care of Stolons Before Planting. It is important to have all preparations made so that the stolons can be planted immediately after they are received. Stolons allowed to remain in bags or in stacks for any great length of time are very likely to be damaged from heating. Therefore, if for any reason it is impossible to plant at once, the stolons should be dumped out of the bags and spread loosely in a shady, cool place where the air can get to them. They should then be kept moist.

Preparation of Stolons for Planting Turf. Scott's Stolons are shipped already cut into proper lengths for planting unless, of course, the purchaser prefers to do his own chopping. A liberal amount will be sent to plant the area that is specified.

Planting Stolons for Turf. The cut stolons should be broadcasted uniformly over the surface. A live joint to every square inch is sufficient to give first class turf. After the stolons have been broadcasted and rolled, a light covering of well pulverized topdressing material should be applied. It is not neces-

sary to add fertilizer to the topdressing, although the addition of Ammonium Sulfate at the rate of 10 pounds per 1000 square feet will be found advantageous. Do not cover the stolons too deeply. It is necessary to apply only sufficient topdressing to hold the stolons in place. Never cover more than $\frac{1}{4}$ inch; even less is advisable in most cases. This is very important, as a very heavy covering tends to retard the growth of the stolons, and consequently a longer time is required for the development of thick, luxuriant turf. In some cases excessive covering has made it impossible, or at least exceedingly difficult for the young shoots to reach the surface and the results have been disappointing.

Rolling. After planting, it is essential that the planted area be rolled lightly so as to press the earth around the stolons. This holds the stolons in place and in contact with the moist soil, encouraging quick root establishment and immediate growth of grass. Another rolling after the $\frac{1}{4}$ inch of topsoil has been put over the stolons is also advised.

Watering. Just after rolling, the ground should be sprinkled with a fine spray of water until the surface is thoroughly moist and as often as necessary thereafter to keep the surface moist. This is necessary under all conditions and especially so when the weather continues dry.

Care After Planting

Watering. The surface of the lawn should be watered twice a day at least in dry weather during the first two or three weeks, and thereafter usually once a day during dry weather. Care should, however, be taken not to water too much, as a soggy condition of the soil is harmful to Bent.

Mowing. Cutting should begin as soon as the young shoots or plants have reached a height of one and a half or two inches, and afterwards the grass should be kept closely clipped. The clippings from the first few mowings may well be left on the ground and a light topdressing applied over them, as where there is a joint or node on any of the clippings there is a bud that may develop into a plant, thereby helping to thicken the turf and hasten it toward a finished condition. The grass should never be allowed to grow rank and tall, as it makes it harder to get the turf down to a fine condition.

Topdressing. Topdressing should be done often enough to keep the turf filled so it presents a smooth, firm surface.

Weeding. If the lawn is planted in the spring many weeds are apt to come in before the Bent covers the ground. Such weeds should be pulled out, in order to eliminate future trouble.