BENT LAWNS

CREEPING BENT LAWNS

In this booklet we are dealing primarily with Creeping Bent lawns produced by planting the chopped roots and runners, called Stolons, rather than seed. While it is now possible to obtain a Creeping Bent lawn from seed, the distinct advantage of vegetative planting will especially appeal to the person desirous of producing a fine lawn.

O. M. SCOTT & SONS COMPANY . . . MARYSVILLE, OHIO

WHY A CREEPING BENT LAWN?

The planting of Creeping Bent by the vegetative method has been employed in the construction of golf course putting greens since 1921. It resulted from a persistent search for the perfect putting green grass. Creeping bent is the only grass that will produce the thick, closely-knit and uniform turf so necessary for accurate putting and greatest beauty.

Many golf players quickly realized that this wonderful new grass would be desirable for lawns. As we were one of the pioneer growers of Creeping Bent Stolons it was quite natural that Scott's Creeping Bent would be used to produce many of the first Bent lawns. Today there are hundreds of Scott's Creeping Bent lawns in all parts of the country where Bent thrives (see

Above the black line Creeping Bent may be grown successfully. Below it only in mountainous regions will Bent thrive. Generally speaking it grows satisfactorily wherever Kentucky Blue Grass can be grown.

Creeping Bent Stolons as they are grown in the Scott Nursery. The grass as you see it here is taken up with long knives and then passed through the shredder, which cuts it up ready for planting.

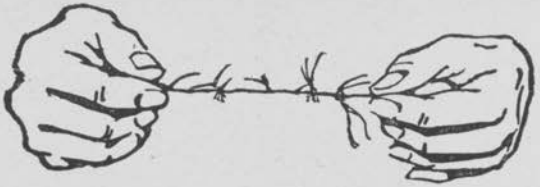
map). During 1934 the major prize winners in Better Lawn contests sponsored by the leading newspapers in New York City, Chicago and Cleveland had lawns of Scott's Creeping Bent, produced by planting the Stolons. The prizes were awarded because of the rich color and velvet-like, weed-free texture of Creeping Bent as evidenced by the illustrations in this booklet.

A distinct advantage in the use of Stolons lies in the fact that complete coverage is obtained in from six to ten weeks of favorable weather. Seeded lawns make a showing in a comparatively short time, but do not form sod until the second year. In contrast a Stolon lawn reaches maturity during the first season.

More than an acre of Creeping Bent being planted with Scott's Stolons near Cleveland, Ohio. In this picture they are scattering the stolons. A very simple process. No harder than sowing seed.

Now the top soil is being applied. A very large area is being planted by a small force of men. For a lawn of 10,000 square feet or less two or three persons can easily finish the job in five or six hours.

Water is important. It is being applied with a fine spray so the planted area is not disturbed. The ground must be kept moist for the first two or three weeks. A photograph of this project taken five weeks later shows the ground to be practically covered with a heavy stand of grass.



A Creeping Bent Stolon. The joints do the work. Each one produces a new plant.

Because of this quickness of growth weeds are kept in much greater control as the lawn is becoming established. After a Creeping Bent lawn is once formed there will be little further trouble with weeds because the thick, close turf will prevent their development. On page ten the owner of a large Bent lawn tells from his experience that Creeping Bent turf becomes so thick that crab grass, dandelions and other pests are unable to compete.

If there is a Creeping Bent lawn on the street it is nearly always the best lawn. Ordinary lawns even if much above the average, still lack that uniformity and beauty which is peculiar to Creeping Bent. Bent lawns will never become common. We predict that even twenty-five years from now they still will be the aristocratic lawns.

PREPARATION OF THE SOIL

Our discussion here pertains to soil preparation for planting Creeping Bent Stolons and yet for the sowing of Bent Seed the same directions apply. Bent needs no specific type of soil. A good grade of garden loam of reasonable richness will grow Bent successfully. Statements are frequently heard to the effect that a strongly acid soil is necessary. This is a mistake as tests conducted at several experiment stations have proven. Soils that are either neutral, slightly acid or slightly alkaline produce Bent

This beautiful Creeping Bent Lawn in Lakewood, Ohio attracts many passers-by. Its freshness and velvet-like appearance make it stand out conspicuously.

very satisfactorily. The important thing as in the growing of any grass is to have a sufficient amount of humus and plant food in the soil.

The surface to a depth of three or four inches ought to be good top soil. It should be well fined and compacted. Thoroughly rotted barnyard manure is excellent for enriching and improving the mechanical condition of otherwise indifferent soil. Commercial fertilizer may also be used. We suggest a complete grass food such as our 10-6-4 Turf Builder. This may be applied to the seed bed just before the final raking. The correct rate for the preliminary application is twenty pounds per 1000 square feet. For feeding established turf ten pounds is sufficient. The advantage of the latter is that it combines the three necessary feeding elements, Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potash in their proper ratio, while Sulphate of Ammonia provides only Nitrogen. Following the fertilizer application, we advise a light sprinkling before the Stolons are planted. Enough top soil should be retained and screened to provide a light covering for the Stolons after they have been planted. About one cubic yard of soil is needed for every 1000 square feet of planting area.

TIME OF PLANTING

Creeping Bent Stolons may be planted successfully any time from early spring until late fall. In fact Stolons are frequently planted right in midsummer when one would ordinarily be afraid to risk seeding a lawn. The only precaution necessary is watering at frequent intervals, for the newly planted grass must not be allowed to dry out. The most desirable periods for planting are between May 1st and June 15th and between August 1st and

Croquet ground on the estate of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Stewart Mott, Flint, Michigan. This lovely turf was produced with Scott's Bent Seed. Notice how well the grass has responded to close cutting.

Creeping Bent lawn at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Harper, Lansing, Michigan. The photograph could be taken best with the garage rather than the residence in the background. Mr. Harper is exceedingly proud of his lawn and says of it: "The turf was established in a remarkably short time and is so thick we have had practically no weed troubles."

October 15th. The latter period is the ideal time, and yet the new home builder would not be justified in waiting all summer so that he might plant during the fall season. Bent seed should never be sowed in midsummer but either in early spring or any time in the fall. Fall seeded grasses root more deeply and have a tendency to stool out, thus forming a thicker turf. Furthermore they encounter less competition from weeds.

PLANTING CREEPING BENT

In the preceeding pages reference was made to *Stolons* in connection with vegetative planting. When propagated in a nursery Creeping Bent develops long overground creeping runners. These are called Stolons. The Stolons are jointed at intervals of one or two inches and wherever these joints come in contact with soil a new plant is formed, as shown by the sketch on page six. Thus a closely knit turf results for the joints produce a succession of new plants. Creeping Bent is one of the very few grasses adapted to this method of planting.

For the vegetative planting of Creeping Bent on lawns, putting greens and the like we supply Stolons chopped into lengths of two or three inches. These are shipped in burlap bags by express for quick delivery, and guaranteed to arrive in good planting condition.

Instead of selling Stolons by the pound as we do seed they are sold according to the area to be planted. In other words it is only necessary to advise us the size of the lawn to be planted and we will send a sufficient quantity of Stolons for the job.

PREPARATION FOR PLANTING

Instructions for soil preparation are given on page six. This preparation is practically the same for Stolons as

for planting Bent seed except that it is necessary to reserve enough screened soil to cover Stolons after they have been planted or rather, scattered. (The seed is simply raked in after sowing.) Less than one cubic yard for each 1000 square feet of planting area is needed as the top dressing should be light—not over one-fourth inch. This will probably leave some of the Stolons slightly exposed which is quite proper.

The best and quickest results will be obtained if the lawn is all prepared so that the Stolons can be put on as soon as received. To plant a good sized lawn there should be three persons to do the work. This makes it possible to complete the planting quickly and efficiently an important step toward successful results. Stolon planting is not a difficult process but owing to the lack of a common understanding of the subject we shall furnish specific data.

Four things are necessary:

1. Sufficient screened soil for covering the Stolons after spreading.
2. Ordinary medium size buckets for handling Stolons and top soil.
3. A medium weight roller.
4. A hose with spray nozzle for sprinkling.

SCATTERING STOLONS

Stolons are delivered chopped ready for planting. Just before shipping they are cut up into various lengths and resemble somewhat partially dried grass clippings with a little dirt mixed in. Scatter the chopped Stolons evenly over the ground. Go over the planted area with a light roller so that the grass will be pressed into the dirt. Next cover with not more than one-fourth inch of screened

The beautiful home and Creeping Bent lawn consisting of more than an acre at the country residence of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Midgely, Jr., near Worthington, Ohio. Mr. Midgely understands Creeping Bent thoroughly, and regards it as the one grass which will make a "perfect" lawn.

soil, preferably less. More than one-fourth inch of covering is undesirable. Roll the planted area so the Stolons will be held firmly in place. Watering should follow immediately. The water should be applied with a fine spray nozzle in such a manner that the planted area will not be disturbed.

SUBSEQUENT TREATMENT

After planting, the surface soil should be kept moist at all times, particularly during the first two or three weeks. Through a period of warm weather this may require three or even four light sprinklings each day. This is very important for otherwise the grass will dry up and die before it can take root. To keep Creeping Bent as fine as it appears on a putting green, frequent mowing and feeding are necessary; mowing to keep the grass fine and velvet-like, fertilizing to replace the plant food which the soil loses through the grass clippings. But it is not necessary nor even desirable to keep a *lawn* as closely cut as you would a putting green. Nevertheless it should be mowed more frequently than ordinary lawns if one wishes to bring out the full possibilities of Creeping Bent.

TOP-DRESSING

After the first year or two if the turf should become too thick, a vigorous raking and close cutting followed by a light top-dressing of screened, loamy soil, will correct the condition. For this type of top-dressing one cubic yard of soil is enough for from two to three thousand square feet of lawn area. With this amount of top-dressing material may be mixed from twenty to thirty pounds of Scott's Turf Builder or any grass food

At Great Neck, Long Island, N.Y., you will find this large, magnificent lawn at the home of Mr. Richard Church. It received the Grand Award this year in the Better Lawns contest sponsored by the New York Herald Tribune and is the fourth consecutive Scott winner in this annual event.

of similar analysis. The average Creeping Bent lawn if top-dressed once yearly in early spring or fall, should look its best throughout the season. The necessity for such attention can be determined by the appearance of the grass. Should it at any time appear to be suffering from lack of plant food, the lawn should be top-dressed but omitting of course the hard raking which was recommended only in case of too much matting.

WATERING IMPORTANT

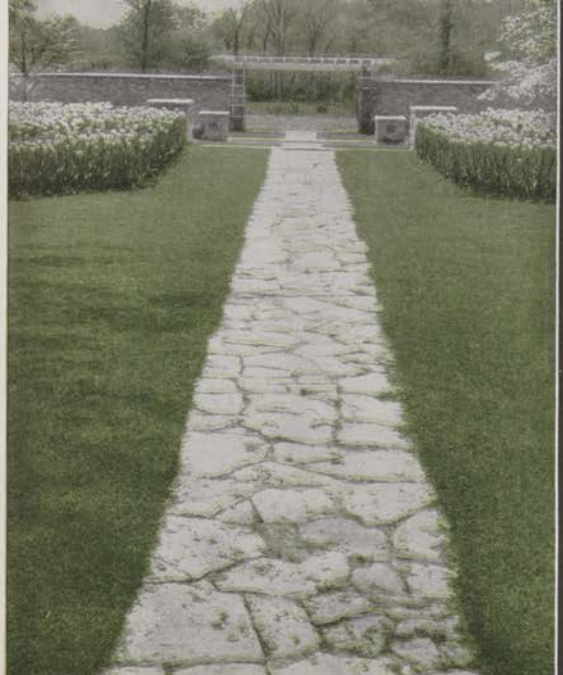
As in the case of any lawn, a good soaking at intervals of three or four days is better than light daily sprinklings. Too frequent and too light watering causes the grass to become shallow rooted. This of course does not apply to the regular watering necessary during the first few weeks after planting.

CREEPING BENT SEED

In the preceding pages we have described the use of Stolons to produce a Creeping Bent lawn. Such a lawn can also be obtained by sowing Creeping Bent seed although this method of planting will not give as quick results, nor keep weeds in such complete control. For new lawns, where quick results are desired, Stolons are without equal although Bent seed may be utilized in making new lawns or improving established lawns.

RATE OF SEEDING

New ground should be sowed at the rate of from three to five pounds per 1000 square feet. Because of the lightness of Bent seed it should be sown carefully. Keep the hand close to the ground and sow both ways. On a large lawn by the use of mechanical seeders or similar



equipment it is possible to seed more evenly and more economically. The seeded area should be raked lightly and rolled. It is desirable at this time to sprinkle with a fine spray provided the sprinkling is to be continued regularly. It is not wise to apply just enough water to produce germination and then discontinue because if the weather is very hot, the new seedlings will be permanently injured. If seeding is done during a period of normal rainfall, artificial watering may be withheld entirely.

SEEDING OLD LAWNS WITH BENT

To convert a lawn consisting largely of ordinary grasses and weeds into a Bent lawn by merely reseeding each year

A section of the garden at a country home near Columbus, Ohio. Creeping Bent was selected as the grass most capable of providing an appropriate setting for a marvelous flower garden.

with Bent seed is an impossibility. It will require years, even if the Bent grows very vigorously, to crowd the established grass from its habitat.

A lawn that is badly run down should be torn up and entirely rebuilt. Where reasonably good turf prevails it can be greatly improved by the sowing of Bent seed and an occasional application of compost mixed with Scott's Turf Builder. Before sowing the Bent, dig out the weeds and scratch the surface vigorously with a sharp rake. Two pounds of Bent per 1000 square feet is enough for the resowing of an established lawn. After sowing give the ground another light raking, followed by a light rolling and sprinkling. Covering the ground to a depth of one-eight of an inch with compost or rich dirt will not only help the germination of the seed but greatly benefit the soil as well.

NATIVE GRASS MIXTURES

A treatise on lawns would be incomplete without reference to native grasses. Regardless of the fine results obtainable with Bent, the great majority of people will depend upon native lawn mixtures.

If our reputation as seedsmen is of any consequence, it is because we have always had the desire to sell purer seed than anyone else. In the case of lawn seed it was not hard to realize our ambition. Lawn mixtures that were closely examined and analyzed showed that the chief motive in many cases was to give as much bulk as possible for the money. Chaff fairly bulged from every package, making the purchaser feel that he was getting a wonderful bargain. In reality, the amount of pure viable seed that would grow, or rather that anyone would want to grow, could have been put in a package half the size.

Not only that but in the mixtures were varieties that had no business being there. Cheapness and quick growing ability gave them the preference. Scott's Lawn Seed made its debut as a practically weedless mixture and still enjoys that distinction. Every grass put into it represents the highest standard of quality.

Of as great importance is the fact that the original formula, varied only in recent years to include Creeping Bent, comprises only grasses that make for a good, permanent lawn.

SCOTT'S TURF BUILDER

Soil experts tell us that grass requires a different type of food from other vegetation. Several years ago we began the manufacture of Scott's Turf Builder with the express idea of making the best grass fertilizer. Turf Builder is not all mineral like most plant foods. It is half vegetable matter, this being derived from the ground soybeans and other legume seeds, thus insuring both quick and lasting fertilization. Turf Builder contains two and one-half times as much Nitrogen as most plant foods and consequently much less of it is needed. The slightly higher cost per pound is more than offset by the higher concentration. Application should be made at the rate of ten pounds per 1000 square feet on an old lawn and twenty pounds when preparing the ground for new seeding. The lawn that is fed regularly on Turf Builder possesses a noticeably rich color and gives every evidence of well being. And the healthy, vigorous lawn is of course much better able to hold its own against weeds. Further particulars and a sample of Turf Builder will be furnished upon request.

SCOTT PRODUCTS

For Lawns—Creeping Bent Stolons; Regular Mixture (for all open areas); Shade Mixture; Bent Seed; Turf Builder (grass food).

For Golf Courses—Creeping Bent Stolons for greens; Grass Seed of all varieties for greens, fairways, rough, etc.; Turf Builder and Ammonium Sulphate for grass feeding.

Scott's Seed is also made into special mixtures for Cemeteries, Parks, School Grounds, Athletic Fields, Polo Fields, Airports, and every other purpose.

SCOTT PUBLICATIONS

This booklet was published primarily to explain the merits of Bent. No attempt has been made to discuss in detail the important features of lawn making such as drainage, grading, soil preparation, weed eradication, etc. Those who wish such information should ask for our booklet *"Lawns"* which is sent without charge or obligation.

Among other publications of this company are the following:

Lawns—A small booklet of condensed facts about the mechanics of lawn making and care.

Lawn Care—A bulletin published five times yearly containing timely and up-to-the-minute information on grass culture. If you are not receiving these bulletins ask to be put on our mailing list. There is no charge.

We are distributors of seed for golf courses and shall be glad to furnish helpful information to any who are interested in new construction or maintenance of established courses. One fourth of all the golf clubs in the country have sowed Scott's Seed.

O. M. SCOTT & SONS CO. SCOTT'S LAWN SEEDS MARYSVILLE, OHIO