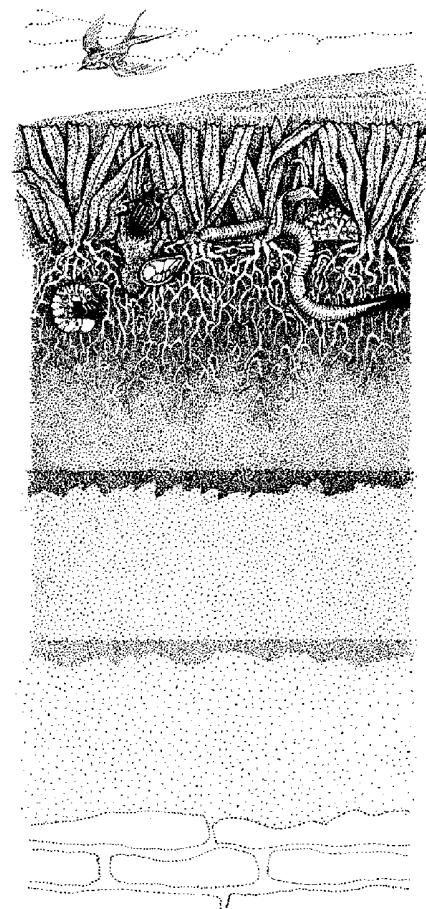


CUTT

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NTEP Evaluation of Bentgrass Cultivars for Greens

In 1923, U.S. Department of Agriculture Agristologist, Dr. Charles Piper, and Agronomist, Dr. Russell Oakley, wrote *Turf for Golf Courses*. In the chapter, “The Important Turf Plants”, they wrote: “Unquestionably the finest commercial grass for putting greens in the North is Creeping Bent.” Back then, Creeping Bent was *Agrostis stolonifera* and the seed came from south Germany (hence the name South German Bent). Several other bentgrasses, such as Rhode Island Bent (*Agrostis vulgaris*), Velvet Bent (*Agrostis canina*) and Redtop (*Agrostis alba*) also were mentioned as grasses used on golf courses. Interestingly, creeping bentgrass became *Agrostis palustris* in the United States and remained *Agrostis stolonifera* in Europe. It is widely thought now that the South German bents were mostly Browntop or Colonial bentgrasses (*Agrostis tenuis*) with small amounts of creeping and velvet. ■

Until the mid 1950s, bentgrasses were established vegetatively from the C-series with varieties such as Cohansey, Washington, Congressional, and the now infamous Toronto. Establishment by seed meant that you planted either South German or Seaside. Then in 1955, Penncross, a seeded bentgrass (the standard by which all future varieties would be measured) was released by Dr. H. Burton Musser of Penn State University. Penncross is quick to establish and recover from injury due in part to its aggressive nature and extensive lateral growth. Penncross seed is produced from the random crossing of three vegetatively propagated strains

in the field. The next 20 years would see the release of very few bentgrass cultivars, and not until 1978 did Dr. Joe Duich, also from Penn State, release the first serious competitor in Penneagle. Penneagle is considered less aggressive and more upright than Penncross. Many of the management standards and equipment in use today were developed to maintain Penncross.

After relying on Penncross for over 40 years there now are approximately 25 commercially available bentgrasses for golf courses. The last several years have brought an explosion of cultivars to meet the increased demand from golf

This Times

1. *NTEP Evaluation of Bentgrass Cultivars for Greens*
2. *Short Cutts*
 - Turfgrass Disease CD-ROM
 - Human Resource Management book
 - New Construction Educator at USGA
 - Turfgrass Information Directory
 - Low Input Lawn Care
3. *Scanning the Journals*
6. *Turfing the Net*
7. *Football Field Maintenance*
12. *Ground Ivy Control*

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