

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

All questions sent to the Green Section will be answered in a letter to the writer as promptly as possible. The more interesting of these questions, with concise answers, will appear in this column each month. If your experience leads you to disagree with any answer given in this column, it is your privilege and duty to write to the Green Section.

While most of the answers are of general application, please bear in mind that each recommendation is intended specifically for the locality designated at the end of the question.

**1. European red fescue and Chewings' (or New Zealand) red fescue.**—Are these two red fescues the same? (California.)

**ANSWER.**—No. Chewings' fescue (*Festuca rubra fallax*) is a European grass introduced in New Zealand. It is one of the numerous varieties of red fescue, about forty of which occur in Europe. The European seed is mainly true red fescue (*Festuca rubra genuina*) but with a little seed of other fescues intermixed, usually including sheep's fescue. The New Zealand variety does not creep as widely as the European, but there is not great difference in the two. If anything, the latter is the better, but neither of them is to be recommended except on sandy or gravelly soils. The seeds of the two can be distinguished only by the impurities which each contains.

**2. Exterminating groundhogs.**—The new course here is infested with groundhogs. What is the best way of exterminating them? (Vermont.)

**ANSWER.**—We know of no better method of getting rid of these animals than to place a tablespoonful of calcium cyanide in each burrow and then close the mouth of the burrow. This material should be placed far enough down the mouth of the burrow so as not to be covered with the soil used for stopping up the hole.

**3. Comparative Value of Different Manures.**—In the preparation of land for several new fairways we are about to construct, we have advice from one source to fertilize it first with horse manure, while another source advises us not to use horse manure under any circumstances but that sheep manure should be used, and still another source advises us that the proper thing to do is to grow a crop of peas on the land first and turn it under. We shall appreciate your suggestions in the matter. (Virginia.)

**ANSWER.**—The character of turf grass can always be regulated by fertilizing the established turf from the top, and in the end this is just as cheap and more satisfactory than trying to get the soil rich enough to grow turf indefinitely without fertilizing. As for the value of the different manures, cow manure gives the best results. Horse manure is excellent, and so are some grades of sheep manure. If you buy any manure, we would advise you to buy that which is cheapest, as the differences between them are of minor importance when cost is considered. As for growing a crop of peas on the land and plowing it under, that is an excellent plan, provided you are in position to wait a year longer, as it will take that long for a crop to mature.