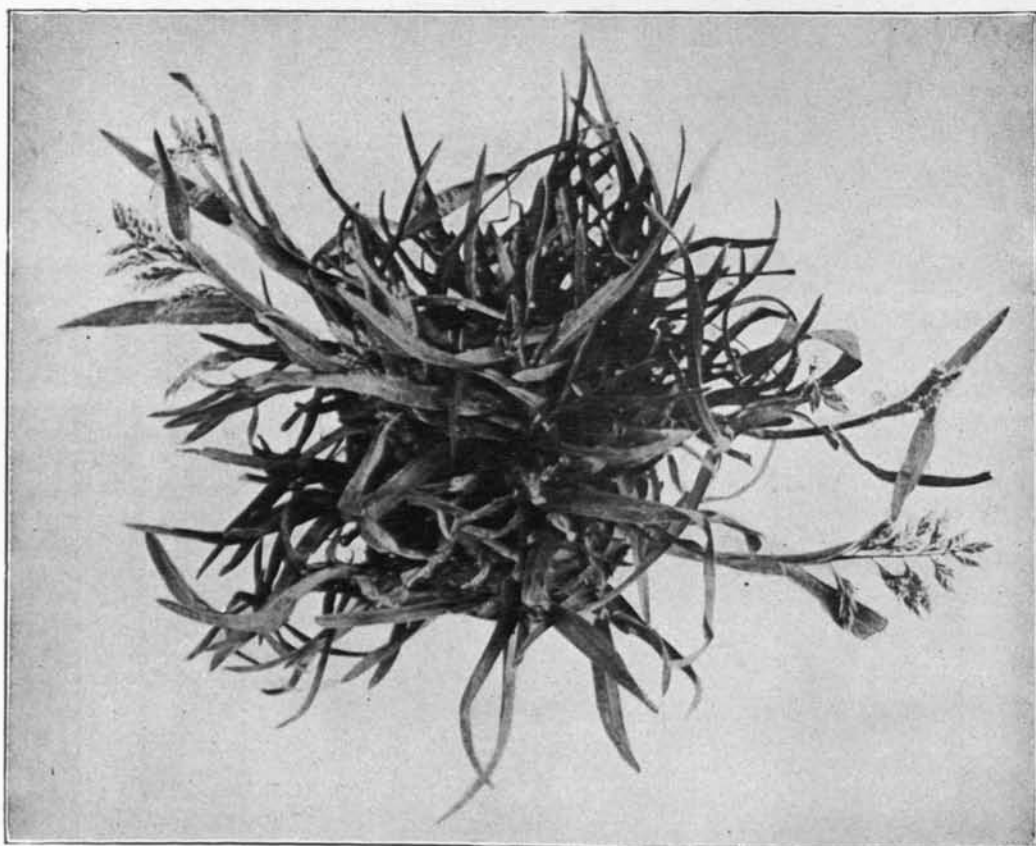


Annual Bluegrass (*Poa annua*)

C. V. Piper and R. A. Oakley

In early spring perhaps no other grass is as much the subject of inquiry as the subject of this sketch. At this time of the year it is conspicuous in lawns and on putting greens as well as in shady places where most other grasses do not thrive. On putting greens it commonly appears in autumn, and indeed in the latitude of Washington, D. C., often blooms before winter. In the early spring it grows rapidly and blooms before any other turf grass. When once established it volunteers year after year, increasing in abundance. In spring it is often the most abundant grass in some putting greens and in shady lawns. It vanishes completely by mid-summer, at least as far north as Washington, D. C., but in Philadelphia and northward some plants may be found at any time during the summer.



A young plant of Annual Bluegrass just as it begins to bloom in Spring

Poa annua, the scientific name being quite as familiar as its common name, is easily distinguishable by its small tufts, fibrous roots, bright green not at all bluish color, soft texture, and the cross crumpling of the leaves near the base. The grass is native to Europe, but it now occurs practically everywhere in the United States.

As a putting grass *Poa annua* is not without merit, at least in some latitudes. When abundant enough to make a solid turf, its putting quality is most excellent but a little slow. If only scattered plants occur in the turf, it is sometimes objectionable, as it may make the putting surface uneven. No matter how closely the grass is cut it will still blóssom and make seeds at the very surface of the ground. As the grass nears maturity it gradually becomes paler, partly due to the abundant flowers, and is then not so attractive.

On the whole the grass is to be considered desirable rather than a weed. Certainly it would be very expensive to keep it out of greens altogether, and surely its demerits if any are not sufficient to justify the attempt.

Seed of annual bluegrass has occasionally been obtainable in the trade, but usually containing much other grass seed harvested with it.

We hope that this article on *Poa annua*, reprinted from the first volume of THE BULLETIN, will arouse general discussion of the relative merits and failings of the grass as a putting green turf. What do you think of it, and why? In many parts of the country that is an important question, for your whole plan of maintenance will be governed by the answer. In short tell us all you know and believe about *Poa annua*.—Editors.

Let's Get Together

In the June number of THE BULLETIN a notice was published of the proposed meeting of the green committee chairmen and greenkeepers with the Green Section at Washington, to be held the latter part of August. It was requested that the Green Section be notified by all who expected to be present in case such a meeting should be held. The response to this request has been sufficient to justify a definite decision to hold a meeting but it is hoped that many more will be present than have so far signified their intention to do so. It may be readily understood that the more men who are interested in golf course maintenance get together at this meeting where all are free to discuss their problems and the results of methods practised the greater will be the benefit to all. Every man present at this meeting will doubtless have learned something from his experience that would be helpful to his fellow greenkeepers or green committeemen, as the case may be, and it is believed that such a meeting will be an ideal occasion for passing such information on to those that will benefit the most.

The Arlington Turf Garden should be at its best at the time this meeting is to be held, with most of the experiments showing up to the greatest advantage. This turf garden is in reality a laboratory in which the various turf grasses as well as hundreds of maintenance methods are subjected to the "acid test" for the purpose of disseminating between the satisfactory and the unsatisfactory grasses, and the practical and impractical methods of greenkeeping in general. The results of these tests have been the source of much valuable information and they continue to yield abundantly in this respect. A visit to the Turf Garden alone is worth the time and expense of attending the meeting, especially to any green committee chairman