

4. Do not apply the clay too thick. It makes an unpleasant condition in wet weather and takes too long to work in.

5. I believe that better results will be obtained if a little humus, like mushroom soil, is worked in when you first apply the clay.

6. It would probably be helpful to use a little bent with your bluegrass and redtop.

7. When you get the grass started, a light topdressing containing a small amount of clay, together with some humus, applied every couple of years, will encourage spread and continued improvement.

8. Water is always essential to good turf, but is of vital importance with sandy soils. If a reasonable supply can be provided, your results will be much quicker and surer.

### Salt Grass

By H. L. Westover

Salt grass (*Distichlis spicata*) is of world-wide distribution and its presence is always indicative of an excess of soluble salts in the soil. It occurs in wet, salty areas along the seacoast and also in



Salt Grass, *Distichlis spicata*. Staminate plant and a pistillate panicle,  $\times \frac{3}{4}$ ; pistillate spikelet and floret,  $\times 2\frac{1}{2}$

considerable abundance on alkaline soils of the West where moisture from seepage or from other sources is abundant. Its maximum tolerance is very high, yet at the same time it will grow luxuriantly where the salt content is too low for other saline plants. Salt grass resembles Bermuda grass in appearance and is often mistaken for it, especially before the seed heads develop. However, the seed heads of the two grasses are so distinctive that there is no reason for confusion once they have appeared. Salt grass may have a sphere of usefulness on some of the golf courses along the coast where salty water collects or on some of the alkaline soils of the West. It has an abundance of underground creeping stolons and it is only necessary to take up sod of the grass, chop it up and scatter the chopped stolons on the ground and roll them in or

cover lightly. It should make a splendid turf where there is an excess of soluble salts in the soil even though covered with salt water a portion of the time, as, for instance, at high tide. Seed and material for vegetative plantings are not commercially available, but courses having conditions that favor this grass will ordinarily have little difficulty in locating areas near by where it occurs in abundance.



Who said creeping bent does not like water? The above was photographed on the Baltusrol course, and shows a heavy growth of creeping bent hanging down over the center of a concrete dam, where it has an ample supply of water at all times. Some one has suggested that we christen it the "Niagara strain." Another has suggested that it be called "Baltusrol's dam strain."

*Annual Reports of Golf Clubs.*—The Green Section is desirous of securing copies of the Annual Report of all United States Golf Association member clubs. The information contained in these reports will be regarded as confidential. Will you kindly send a copy to the Executive Secretary?

Every green committee should exercise its authority and close its course to play whenever, because of heavy rains or thaws, the course is likely to be damaged. A few "nuts," who would attempt to play if the mud were knee-deep, should not be permitted to do damage that can not be repaired.

Every golf course should be maintained on some definite program year in and year out. The past should be kept as the standard, unless a departure is warranted by some good reason. Changes of program should be made sensibly with a clear view of the results that may be expected. There is no sense in trying anything and everything.

Straight rows of trees, except along roads, should be avoided. Irregularly scattered groups of trees are wonderfully effective in beautifying the landscape.