

seed. The demand for this seed in the United States has depended mostly on the small percentage of creeping bent seed it contains and the somewhat larger percentage of velvet bent seed. The remainder of the mixture is mostly colonial bent with a small percentage of redtop. Usually the closer German mixed bent approaches 90 per cent or over in purity the more redtop it contains, which in many cases may be due to blowing the chaff from the pure mixed seed as harvested and adding the cheaper seed of redtop. The chaffy mixed seed from Germany is harvested at a comparatively much lower cost than similar seed can be produced in the United States. The colonial bent seed from New Zealand is apparently produced more economically than it has been possible to produce pure colonial bent seed in this country. There is now a protective tariff which will undoubtedly largely reduce seed importations from Germany, New Zealand, and Canada.

It has been evident, especially in the past few years, that the work of the seed analyst is playing an important part in keeping fine turf seeds pure. However, judging from some samples of seed received in 1930 from golf clubs, it is evident also that vigilance is still necessary. Golf clubs should purchase seed on a purity and germination basis, dealing only with reliable seed houses. Wherever there is doubt about seed it should be sent for analysis to one of the state seed laboratories, to a commercial seed laboratory, or to the United States Golf Association Green Section.

How Bermuda Grass Seed Is Secured

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Bermuda grass is named after the Atlantic islands of the same name. It is now widely disseminated throughout the semiarid and subtropical regions where winter frosts are not sufficiently severe to kill its roots. The plant is perennial (living from year to year). It is propagated by means of seeds, jointed rootstocks, and aerial runners which take root at each joint. Seed produced in humid climates is not fertile. All commercial seed comes from the arid regions, such as southwestern United States or Australia. It is very hardy after once becoming established, living for months without moisture, and it is on record that it lived for over two years when submerged by the Saltan Sea (Imperial Valley, Calif.) making renewed growth when the water evaporated. Bermuda makes good pasture for cattle, horses, or sheep. It is a pernicious weed in the arid Southwest and very hard to eradicate when once established in cultivated fields. The principal source of seed comes as a by-product from threshing alfalfa seed—that is, alfalfa fields badly infested with Bermuda are allowed to produce seed, and when the alfalfa is cut the Bermuda is harvested and threshed at the same time. By the proper adjustment of screens in the separator the two kinds of seeds are segregated. Occasionally pasture fields growing on alkaline soil are allowed to produce a seed crop. When this occurs the crop is harvested with hay-making machinery and threshed with ordinary threshing machinery.