

## BRIEF REPORT ON THE STATUS OF B-27 BLUEGRASS

The demand for information on B-27 bluegrass is so great that we are taking this means to answer many of the questions that have reached us.

At the end of the second year of our co-operative tests with experiment stations, golf clubs and homeowners in comparing B-27 with commercial bluegrass, we can state conclusively that B-27 bluegrass is an improved bluegrass which shows every indication of maintaining its superior characteristics under turf management.

B-27 bluegrass tolerates closer mowing than does commercial bluegrass. One-half-inch mowing results in the virtual destruction of common bluegrass but B-27 produces a tight, dense, clean turf under this height of cut.

B-27 bluegrass is more drought-tolerant than is commercial bluegrass. Under identical conditions, after a period of no rain or no irrigation, B-27 has been

green and vigorous when commercial bluegrass has been wilting and suffering from lack of moisture.

B-27 bluegrass produces a turf that is more free from weeds than is commercial bluegrass. There has been less crabgrass in the B-27 plots.

B-27 bluegrass is in extremely short supply, principally because of severe drought and a heavy freeze on June 28 in the seed-producing area of Oregon. Had normal weather conditions prevailed we would not have to be apologizing for the shortage of seed. The seed growers are exerting every effort to increase their acreage so that this improved turf grass can be made available to all. Quite naturally, the demand and the shortage combine to keep prices high.

We must ask our Member Clubs and our subscribers not to request seed from the USGA Green Section because we have none to distribute.

### Turf Problems in California

*Notes on "A Survey of Twelve Golf Courses in the Los Angeles Area", by Edward F. Roach, Graduate Student, Division of Ornamental Horticulture, University of California, Los Angeles, California.*

The USGA Green Section recently received a mimeographed report on "A Survey of Twelve Golf Courses in the Los Angeles Area" by Edward F. Roach which shows the interesting similarities between golf courses in Los Angeles and golf courses in most eastern cities.

No mention is made of the type of grass used on the putting greens, but our visit in February indicated that seaside bent is used almost entirely.

The pH value of the greens varied from 4.6 to 8.5. The clay content ranged from 9 per cent to 31 per cent. The sand content ranged from 17 per cent to 77 per cent. No correlations were drawn from the limited sampling. No excessive salt-content (conductivity readings) was found. Watering varied from once a week to six times a week. Organic fertilizers are used most commonly, and the actual nitrogen as N to 1,000

square feet varied from 6 pounds to 13.8 pounds.

The most common weeds listed are *Poa annua*, Bermudagrass and dichondra. Diseases include brownpatch, dollarspot and copper-spot. Insects include earthworms and sod webworms. Arsenate of lead is used quite freely.

Mr. Roach directs the survey into research channels by listing seven problems which were of greatest interest to the greenkeeping superintendents who were interviewed. They are:

1. Search for a variety of creeping-bent grass that would be easier to maintain than varieties used at present.
2. The fertilizer requirements of bent.
3. Fungicide research.
4. Developing a method of determining how much to water bent.
5. Testing the value of mechanical aeration and cultivation of turf.
6. An attempt to find the best type of soil for greens.
7. An attempt to find a grass for green aprons that will withstand cadie-cart wear.