

TRAVEL HIGHLIGHTS

BY THE GREEN SECTION STAFF

Plans are under way to release the Z-52 strain of Japanese lawngrass officially. This will be a joint action by the USGA Green Section and the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Plant Industry, Forage Crops and Diseases.

Common bluegrass has been damaged badly by *Helminthosporium* leafspot. Our spring has been long, cold, and wet. Where Z-52 zoysia has been planted into common bluegrass lawn turf it is covering up for the diseased common bluegrass.

Merion bluegrass with Z-52 zoysia and also Merion bluegrass with common Japanese lawngrass are the two top turf combinations at the Beltsville Turf Gardens.

The top creeping bents under our system of management (no artificial watering and no fungicidal treatments) are Arlington (C-1), Congressional (C-19) and Dahlgren (C-115).

Several "F" fescues from the Penn State breeding program show definite superiority this spring in the cooperative test plots. Commercial fescues now on the market are having a tough struggle to cope with the serious disease problems of the Maryland area. Crabgrass easily chokes disease-weakened turf.

At last we can report that we see very definite differences in the performance of strains of tall fescues for turf. Kentucky 31 gets the nod over Alta in our trials. The price structure is favorable, too.

Al Radko is very busy with the national coordinated crabgrass trials. Some cooperators want to change the rules, which of course would throw their tests out because they would be different from all the others.

Charles Wilson is working diligently on the national coordinated fungicide trials. Returns to date and participation in the program has been somewhat disappointing. Perhaps when disease hits harder there will be more interest in these national coordinated trials.

New Green Section Service Subscribers

- Artefactos De Papel, S. A., Monterrey, Mexico
 Bentley-Milorganite Co., Seattle, Wash.
 Bob Dunning-Jones, Inc., Tulsa, Okla.
 Buckner Mfg. Co., Chicago, Ill.
 Calvert Distilling Co. (The), Baltimore, Md.
 Carter, H. V., Co., Inc., San Francisco.
 Cleary, W. A., Corp., New Brunswick, N. J.
 Dickinson, Albert, Co. (The), Chicago, Ill.
 Dixie Lawn Supply Co., Inc., Louisville, Ky.
 Foxcroft School, Middleburg, Va.
 Hart, Chas. C., Seed Co. (The), Wethersfield, Conn.
 Mitchell Bros., Inc., Danvers, Mass.
 Nelson, L. R., Mfg. Co., Inc., Peoria, Ill.
 Philadelphia Association of Golf Course Superintendents, Havertown, Pa.
 Roseman Mower Corp., Evanston, Ill.
 St. Louis Division of Parks and Recreation, St. Louis, Mo.
 Schmedemann, C. R., Implement Co., Manhattan, Kansas
 Standard Mfg. Co., Cedar Falls, Iowa
 Toro Equipment Co., Inc., White Plains, N. Y.
 Turf Equipment, Inc., Kansas City, Mo.
 United Seeds, Inc., Omaha, Nebr.
 Vaughan's Seed Co., Chicago, Ill.
 Warren's Turf Nursery, Palos Park, Ill.

— ● — West Coast Trip

Most of the putting greens in the Seattle area tend to develop a thick "felt pad" which strongly resists the movement of water, air and nutrients. Aeration of this pad immediately starts new live, healthy root action which did not exist before.

Observations indicate that most turf would benefit from some additional nutrients, particularly nitrogen. There is some evidence that perhaps more water is being used than may be needed.

Dandelion, chickweeds and English daisy constitute the principal offenders in turf. 2, 4-D does very well except on the chickweeds and English daisy. There is some indication that sodium arsenite would be an excellent material.

Poa annua and *Poa trivialis* seem to

be two predominant grasses in lawn and fairway turf. Occasionally some red fescues do a fair job of making turf. For the most part the red fescue looks quite unhappy. The reason is not altogether clear.

The best fescue turf observed is under light shade where it is mowed to 3 inches high and about 2 or 3 times during the season. Under close mowing the fescue disappears, especially on fairways.

The Bay Area

We were fortunate to be shown around Stanford University by Ellis Van Gorder, Superintendent at Stanford University's Golf Course. Aerifying is producing excellent results. His rake-brush machine, which is pulled with an old 3-wheel tractor across the greens, is largely responsible for keeping the putting greens in tournament condition at all times. One of the best jobs of water management found on any golf course may be observed here.

At Burlingame we saw plots of Merion bluegrass two years old which had been mowed at 3/16-inch during those two years. The ordinary commercial fescues were unable to take this treatment. Common bluegrass simply disappeared.

Deep "felt pads" develop in the Bay area exactly as they do in Seattle, Portland and other places where moisture is plentiful. Chlorosis and other troubles develop under these conditions.

Nearly everywhere we saw the need for combs or rakes on fairway mowers.

Los Angeles Area

A 30-minute tape recording for the Armed Forces Radio Service was done with John Gallagher, O. J. Noer, H. B. Musser, Robert Hagan, with Fred Grau monitoring the discussion.

It was a perfect day for the inspection of the plots at the Southern California Turf Conference. A great deal of interest centered around the combination turf of U-3 Bermudagrass and Congressional bent. One got the feeling that quite a number of people were going to try this combination because of its toughness, drought resistance, deep rooting and beauty.

Kikuyugrass continues to spread and as yet no control for it has been found. Billy Bell reports that roots were found at a depth of 7 feet. (I hope I quote correctly).

Bill Beresford's No. 13 green at the Los Angeles Country Club is a beauty. The drainage is excellent; his own strain of bentgrass is doing an excellent job under his management.

The biggest need in California today is that of an extension specialist in turf.

Omaha

Merion bluegrass seems to be outstanding as compared with common bluegrass because of its resistance to Helminthosporium leafspot. Leafspot is ruining most common Kentucky bluegrass turf in this area but it is difficult to detect unless the turf is observed closely.

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McCall Retires;

Myers Leaves Forage Corps

A memorandum dated April 30 from Dr. R. M. Salter, Chief of the Bureau of Plant Industry, announced the impending retirement of Dr. M. A. McCall and the transfer of Dr. W. M. Myers from Head of the Division of Forage Crops to Director of Field Crop Research. This reorganization was effective May 1, 1951.

Dr. McCall long has been a friend of the Green Section and an active member of the Green Section Committee. We shall miss him. Dr. Myers has done much to effect close coordination between the Department of Agriculture and the USGA Green Section in the short time that he has been here.

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