

## RELEASE OF MEYER ZOYSIA TO STATE EXPERIMENT STATIONS

Several experiment stations were contacted in April, 1951, for suggestions on a proposed statement announcing the release of Z-52, an improved strain of *Zoysia japonica* Steud (Japanese lawngrass). Suggestions were also solicited for a name for Z-52. The one suggested by most respondents and selected by the Division of Forage Crops and Diseases and the USGA Green Section was "Meyer." Planting material was sent to each state requesting it in June, 1951. This material we have considered as breeder stock. If the increase from it is made in accordance with the certification standards of the state certifying agency, it will be eligible for distribution as foundation stock. Any seed to be harvested and sold as certified Meyer Zoysia must come from eligible planting stock (foundation or registered) that has been inspected and certified by a certification agency. Certified Meyer seed is produced solely for turf purposes and is not eligible for use as planting stock for the production of succeeding generations of certified seed.

The USGA Green Section and the United States Department of Agriculture, Division of Forage Crops and Diseases, cooperatively will maintain breeder stock of Zoysia as clonal (vegetative) material. The USGA Green Section will supply to experiment stations or to their designated cooperating agencies breeder stock at \$2 per square foot of sod.

### Description

Meyer Zoysia is a single plant selection made in 1941 at Arlington Farm from the seed introduction F.C. 22183 from Dairen, China. It is a fine leaf selection that is intermediate in this regard between common types of Japanese lawngrass and the related *Zoysia matrella* (L) Merr. (Manila grass). In tests conducted to date Meyer is equal or superior to common Japanese lawngrass in winter hardiness, drought and heat tolerance, ability to compete successfully with crab-

grass and other weeds and resistance to heavy usage. Meyer is particularly superior in its finer texture, greater density and darker green color. It is considered to be best adapted in those areas where ordinary cool season grasses do poorly in the summer and is recommended for use in lawns, on golf courses, on athletic fields, in cemeteries and on other turf areas where common Japanese lawngrass is adapted.

Like the common Japanese lawngrass, it loses its green color with the first killing frost in the fall and is slow to become green in the spring. It has a better color and produces a more desirable turf during its period of active growth than does common Japanese lawngrass. During its active growth, Meyer is similar in appearance to Kentucky bluegrass. It responds well to adequate fertilization, such as Kentucky bluegrass requires. The period of green color can be extended by generous nitrogen fertilization and close mowing. Meyer combines with cool-season grasses as well as does common Japanese lawngrass, and it will provide a year-round green turf as a result when the combination succeeds.

Meyer will spread rapidly from sod strips or plugs to give a satisfactory turf cover. For example, two-inch sod strips planted eight feet apart at Beltsville, Md., in the early spring of 1948 met and joined in two growing seasons. It has been found that when two-inch plugs or sod blocks are set into crabgrass infested turf, it is able to spread and crowd out the crabgrass under ordinary lawn management. Establishment is more rapid, however, if planted on a new seedbed that is kept free of weeds.

Meyer will produce some seed, but the yield is low. Furthermore, individual plants from seed of Meyer are highly variable in a number of characters including leaf width, seed production, seed culm height, internode length, anthocyanin pigmentation, intensity of green

color, vigor and winter hardiness. Therefore, Meyer must be propagated clonally to maintain its varietal characteristics and superiority. However, the turf produced by Meyer seed (first generation only) is sufficiently similar in quality and appearance to the clonally propagated turf that one seed generation is permitted.

Details on distribution of planting stocks to the public and general publicity

adapted to local conditions will be left to the individual cooperating state experiment stations.

EDITOR'S NOTE: *This notice of release is a prime example of the cooperative service between the USGA Green Section and the United States Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Plant Industry. It is the result of a number of conferences involving personnel of both organizations covering a period of several years. Each statement has been checked carefully and double checked and represents the best information available, agreed to in every detail by both parties.*

### MEYER ZOYSIA PLUG PLANTING PROJECT—Berwyn, Md.

	PLANTING PLAN										Planting Dates	Average Precip. &	Monthly Temp.		
	2" PLUGS — 2' SPACINGS												Max.	Min.	
<b>TYPICAL</b>															
WASH., D. C.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12- 4-50	2.97	40.8	21.8
LAWN-AREA:	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11-15-50	2.95	57.1	31.7
CHICKWEED	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11- 3-50			
SPRING &	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10-20-50	3.24	68.4	44.8
FALL; CRAB-	0	0	0	X	0	0	X	0	0	0	0	10- 4-50			
GRASS IN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9-18-50	6.14	73.3	54.7
SUMMER.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9- 6-50			
FERTILITY	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	X	0	X	0	8-16-50	4.71	83.6	59.5
LEVEL-NEVER	0	0	X	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8- 3-50			
FERTILIZED	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7-17-50	5.20	83.3	60.4
TO OWNER'S	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7- 3-50			
KNOWLEDGE.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	X	6- 5-50	4.69	81.7	56.1
BUILT 1938	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5-17-50			
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5- 1-50	3.87	70.8	50.0
INSECT IN-	0	X	0	0	X	0	0	0	X	0	0	4-17-50	0.91	61.2	35.9
FECTION	0	X	0	0	0	0	0	X	X	X	X	3-30-50			
HIGH, MOLE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3-15-50	3.46	49.3	26.3
CHANNELS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3- 1-50			
APPARENT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2-18-50	3.02	43.5	26.0
MOST YEAR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1-14-50	1.66	54.3	32.0
AROUND	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12-29-49	1.88	48.4	26.2
<b>PLUGS SET-</b>															
<b>IN AS DATED</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12- 4-50	2.97	40.8	21.8
<b>WITHOUT</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11-15-50	2.95	57.1	31.7
<b>WATER OR</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11- 3-50			
<b>FERTILIZER</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10-20-50	3.24	68.4	44.8
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10- 4-50			
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9-18-50	6.14	73.3	54.7
<b>AREA UN-</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9- 6-50			
<b>TREATED PRIOR</b>	X	X	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8-16-50	4.71	83.6	59.5
<b>TO PLANTING</b>	X	0	X	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8- 3-50			
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7-17-50	5.20	83.3	60.4
<b>0 = PLUG</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7- 3-50			
<b>SURVIVAL</b>	0	0	0	0	X	0	0	0	X	0	0	6- 5-50	4.69	81.7	56.1
	X	0	0	0	X	0	0	0	0	0	0	5-17-50			
<b>X = PLUG</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5- 1-50	3.87	70.8	50.0
<b>MISSING</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4-17-50	0.91	61.2	35.9
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3-30-50			
<b>TOTAL SUR-</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3-15-50	3.46	49.3	26.3
<b>VIVAL 95%</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3- 1-50			
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2-18-50	3.02	43.5	26.0
<b>COUNTS</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1-14-50	1.66	54.3	32.0
<b>MADE</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12-29-49	1.88	48.4	26.2
<b>11-19-51</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				