Weed-free nurseries are economical to establish and maintain.

WHAT TO PLANT: It depends upon your principal problem and where you are. The basic idea is to develop the superior strains of grasses primarily, with a limited area devoted to the common types of turf now in use on the course. This will provide direct comparisons, and it may speed the day when the newer types of turf will be used generally.

Creeping bents — Arlington (C-1), Congressional (C-19), Collins (C-27), Cohansey (C-7), Toronto (C-15), Old Orchard (C-52), Dahlgren (C-115) and Polycross creeping bent seed. Your experiment station may suggest others which are important locally.

Bluegrass — Merion.

Fescue — Reserve an area for Penn State's new polycross creeping red fescue (perhaps there will be a little seed for testing next year) to compare with standard varieties now on the market.

Bermuda — Tifton 57, Tifton 127, Gene Tift, U-3.

Zoysia — Meyer (Z-52) alone and in combination with the best cool-season grasses.

Centipede — Oklahoma's winter-hardy strain, Georgia's red-stemmed strain.

MAINTENANCE: A few nurseries will grow stolons or sprig material of the best grasses. All nurseries need finished sod always ready for immediate use. Maintenance will conform generally to the regular practices except where "experimental design" dictates variations in water, fertilizer, aerifying, etc. Some superintendents put their putting-green nurseries in "hot spots" surrounded by trees with stagnant air, and less than normal water and fungicides in order to eliminate the unadapted strains of grasses. The unforgivable sin where turf nurseries are concerned is neglect. It is true that the maintenance of the course budget should provide specifically for the development and maintenance of an adequate turf nursery in order to insure the maintenance of a good golf course.

MERION BLUEGRASS STUDY

The USGA Green Section is conducting a nation-wide survey in an effort to develop uniform recommendations on the establishment and management of Merion bluegrass. The survey has been circulated among all cooperators in the National Coordinated Turf Program, members of the Turf Committee of the American Society of Agronomy, members of the USGA Green Section Committee and seedsmen who are USGA Green Section Service Subscribers.

Some of the questions include rates of seeding, suggestions on mixtures, methods of renovating unsatisfactory turf, fertilization, height of cut, watering procedures, aerifying and herbicide suggestions. Each cooperator has been asked to name the points of disadvantage of Merion bluegrass so that the public can be informed accurately what to expect when Merion bluegrass seed is planted. In many cases people have expected too much too soon and consequently have been disappointed.

Readers of the USGA JOURNAL who have not been contacted directly by this memorandum are asked to write in giving their experiences with Merion bluegrass, paying particular attention to any disappointments that might have occurred either through misunderstanding or lack of information. Our confidence in Merion bluegrass as a superior turf grass increases, but we want to state clearly that Merion bluegrass is not a "miracle grass" or a "wonder grass." When Merion bluegrass is properly understood, properly established and properly managed it is far superior to any other bluegrass on the market.

Results of the survey will be published in the USGA JOURNAL so that the information will be available to readers before they purchase their Merion bluegrass seed this fall.