

## TIFFINE (TIFTON 127) TURF BERMUDAGRASS

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Golf-course superintendents continually search for a good, fine-textured bermudagrass. The establishment of experimental turf plots at the Georgia Coastal Plain Experiment Station, Tifton, Ga., in 1947 marked the first milestone for the selection, breeding and testing of bermudagrass types for turf purposes. During that time more than 136 types of bermudagrass were tested under both golf green and fairway management.

By 1949 and 1950 it was evident that a hybrid bermuda, Tiflawn (Tifton 57 bermudagrass), produced at the Experiment Station, was superior to common-seeded bermudagrass and several selections from golf courses in the Southeast. Tiflawn, however, still fell short of the exacting requirements of the golfers for a very fine-textured bermuda.

In an effort, therefore, to produce a finer-textured bermuda, while still retaining desirable qualities, Tiflawn, *Cynodon dactylon* and several other selections of common bermuda were hybridized with a very fine-leaved, disease-susceptible bermuda from South Africa, namely *Cynodon transvaalensis*.

Eighty-nine hybrid plants, obtained from crosses, were planted in the field for observation in 1949. Several of the plants appeared to be inferior turf types and were discarded. The most promising

hybrids, however, were planted in the experimental turf plots. Such comparative ratings as disease resistance, sod density, fineness, playing quality, weed resistance, aggressiveness and so forth over the last two years have indicated that the hybrid plant carrying the number 127 is a superior turf type. This bermuda, produced by crossing Tiflawn with South African bermudagrass, has become known as Tifton 127 turf bermuda, or Tiffine. Since it does not produce viable seed, Tiffine must be propagated vegetatively.

Tiffine has a distinctive medium-green color, is aggressive, disease resistant, not injured by overseeding with ryegrass and much finer in texture than Tiflawn, common-seeded bermuda or most other types of bermudagrass used on putting greens. Although small quantities of sprigs have been mailed to many clubs in the Southeast, a limited supply still is available to clubs on request. Sprigs from commercial sources are available also. Observations to date indicate that Tiffine is well adapted throughout the Southeast. It is being grown satisfactorily on new greens in the coastal area and as far north as the Ohio River Valley.

Although Tiffine is a great improvement over common bermudagrass for putting greens, the bermudagrass breeding work is being continued with the hope that even better bermudagrasses may be found.

## WHAT ABOUT MALEIC HYDRAZIDE?

By ALEXANDER M. RADKO

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Recently we received several inquiries from clubs requesting information on the use of maleic hydrazide as a grass-growth retardant. This surge of inquiries is due undoubtedly to the recent adver-

tisements suggesting maleic hydrazide as a substitute for mowing. Few letters were received from golf-course superintendents, which we interpret as a sign of progress because it indicates that the superinten-