

## New Grasses from Pennsylvania

*Pennlu* creeping bentgrass and *Pennlawn* creeping red fescue are two new strains that have been released by Pennsylvania State University.

The *Pennlu* strain of creeping bentgrass was taken from the seventeenth green of the LuLu Temple Golf Course, near Philadelphia, and sent to the Pennsylvania Agricultural Experiment Station in 1937. It was increased and was first subjected to turf quality tests as a putting green in the fall of 1939. Performance records were secured in the fall of 1940 and in 1941. Active turf testing was discontinued from 1942-1945.

The following is from the release published by the Pennsylvania State University:

"Turf quality evaluations, based on the weighted factor method, have been made on these strains, plus twenty-nine others which have been included in the trials from time to time as poorly performing strains were discarded, for a one to six year period (1947-1952).

"Results of the field plot trials showed that 10(37)4 (*Pennlu*) was significantly better than any other of the twenty-three strains tested continuously for the full six-year period. Also, it was as good or significantly better than any other of forty-three strains tested for three years (1950-1952). Recognized named strains with which *Pennlu* has been compared for three years or more in this series of trials include Congressional, Toronto, Arlington, Collins, Cohansey, Metropolitan and Washington.

"Characteristics of the *Pennlu* strain that are chiefly responsible for its consistently good performance are high disease tolerance, good vigor, density and texture, and ability to withstand a wide temperature range (high and low).

"This strain has been evaluated primarily for use on golf-course greens and similar specialized turf. It has been released by the Pennsylvania Agricultural Experiment Station as a superior variety for such use. It is not recommended for general lawn turf.

"A limited quantity of Breeder's material for vegetative propagation of foundation planting stock is maintained by the Pennsylvania Agricultural Experiment Station and can be secured by application through State Experiment Stations or Crop Improvement Associations to Foundation Seed Stocks of the Pennsylvania State University. The price of this material is \$10 per square foot of nursery stock."

The *Pennlawn* strain of creeping red fescue has resulted from a breeding and selection program that was begun in 1938. The official release published by the Pennsylvania State University describes in considerable detail the synthesizing procedure and the testing.

The following paragraphs are quoted from the published information released by the University:

"It is believed that the significantly better quality of the *Pennlawn* variety is due chiefly to:

- "1. Greater tolerance to leafspot disease.
- "2. Better foliage density.
- "3. Faster rate of spread by underground root stocks.
- "4. Greater ability to withstand close clipping.

"*Pennlawn* is *not* immune to the leaf-spot disease. It is, however, more tolerant to them. It is not attacked as severely and recovers much more rapidly. It seldom becomes cuppy and open due to severe injury from this source when cared for properly. While its rate of spread is not as rapid as good Kentucky bluegrass, it approaches the bluegrass in this respect. It has the same degree of shade tolerance common to the ordinary Chewings and creeping red forms and also the same general tolerances to soil fertility and moisture.

"Based on its performance records to date and the high quality of the parent strains the Pennsylvania Agricultural Experiment Station believes the *Pennlawn* to be a superior variety and that it will produce significantly better turf than any other type of fescue presently available."