

TABLE 4. Comparative turf quality of five *Zoysia* grasses at Tifton, Georgia, in 1954.

Name of grass	Ratings* made on Nov. 2, 1954, for:						Total
	Texture	Density	Growth habit	Rate of spread	Browning	Color	
Emerald <i>Zoysia</i>	3.0	1.0	2.0	2.0	1.5	1.0	10.5
Meyer <i>Zoysia</i>	5.0	3.0	1.0	3.0	2.0	2.0	16.0
Common <i>japonica</i>	6.5	5.0	1.0	3.5	3.0	2.5	21.5
Commercial <i>matrella</i>	2.0	2.0	4.0	2.0	3.0	1.5	14.5
Common <i>Tenuifolia</i>	1.0	2.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	2.0	20.0
LSD at 5% level	0.6	0.8	0.3	1.6	1.5	1.0	—
LSD at 1% level	0.8	1.2	0.4	2.2	2.1	1.4	—

*Average of two replications, rating methods same as in Table 2.

GOOSEGRASS

Goosegrass grows throughout almost the entire United States. It is almost a universal pest in turf areas. It is found in greens, on fairways, on tees, and lawns and it thrives in both shade and sun. Goosegrass is not the only name for this pest. It is called silver crabgrass, crowfoot, irongrass and perhaps other names. Quite often the names are not complimentary. This is an extremely tough grass that germinates in the spring shortly after the crabgrass germination season, and it persists until frost. The low-spreading habit makes it very difficult to cut, and it tends to kill out the grasses around it by enlargement of the rosette-like crown. Goosegrass is found rather frequently on heavy, compacted soils that are subjected to a great deal of wear. Because of its toughness, goosegrass is able to withstand this very heavy wear and it might be a good wear-resistant turfgrass except for the fact that it grows in small clumps or rosettes and does not make a smooth, uniform turf. The following description of this grass is quoted from Hitchcock's Manual of the Grasses of the United States:

"Branching at base, ascending to prostrate, very smooth; culms compressed, usually less than 50 cm. long, but sometimes as much as 1 m.; blades flat or folded, 3 to 8 mm. wide; spikes mostly 2 to 6, rarely more, or but 1 in depauperate plants, flat, 4 to 15 cm. long."

This technical description may not mean a great deal to the layman but it does serve

to describe the plant. The grass resembles crabgrass somewhat except that it is very smooth and it is a much tougher grass. When subjected to traffic, it sticks much closer to the ground. It does not root at the nodes on the branches as does crabgrass. The very tough seed heads have a silvery appearance, hence the name silver crabgrass.

The control of this pest is one of the challenges facing research workers all over the United States. At the present time there is no known control for it. Some success has attended the use of phenyl mercury materials mixed with 2,4-D. Neither of these materials by itself has been successful. Rates of application have not been standardized and those wishing to experiment with these compounds in a mixture should proceed with extreme caution. Various rates should be applied on small areas of turf until the correct proportion and rates are determined. Treatment should be made in the spring when the young seedlings appear.



This is goosegrass. Note the hard compact soil of the pathway in which it is growing. It tolerates heavy wear and compact soils.