

## FAIRWAYS AND THE ROUGH . . .

bent mixtures where the best adapted strains have survived and dominated. These are excellent fairways but they have taken years to develop.

The most commonly used bents on fairways today are the colonials, Astoria and Highland which are quite often mixed with a small percentage of creeping bent such as Seaside. In the

last three or four years we have heard more about Penncross but its use on fairways is still limited. However, with our improved techniques and machines for thatch control, it is well within the realm of possibility that the more aggressive creeping strains of bentgrass will soon be favored for fairway turf.

### BERMUDAGRASS VARIETIES USED ON FAIRWAYS

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"Bermudagrass, *Cynodon dactylon* (L) Pers., is a warm season perennial, growing best with temperatures above 70° F. During periods of prolonged high temperatures with a shortage of moisture, growth will slow down. The lack of cold hardiness limits the northern distribution. Bermuda is known by many colloquialisms, such as wiregrass, devilgrass, creeping fingergrass, dog-toothgrass, quickgrass, Indian couch, and numerous others. The type species *Cynodon dactylon* derives from Kuon (Kun), dog, and odous, tooth, alluding to the sharp scales of the rhizome, hence one name—dogtoothgrass."\*

Bermudagrass is the major fairway grass in the southern half of the United States. It is believed to have been introduced from Africa or India, and is reported to have been brought to Savannah, Ga., in about 1751. Since 1751, it has been a pest in many crops but its suitability for fairway use has been outstanding.

Bermuda can be increased by seed, rhizomes, or by stolons. The new selections of recent years are propagated by vegetative parts altogether. As yet, these new selections do not produce seed which when planted will be exactly like its parent plants. The seed harvested from U-3 does not produce plants the same as its parent.

There are about nine main selections being used on fairways. Some are be-

ing used which were not originally chosen for fairway use.

The bermuda used originally and still a popular grass is called Common bermudagrass. Common bermudagrass is planted by using seed. Improvements of the Common type have been made in the past 10-15 years. Some of our better strains of today were selected in old established Common bermudagrass fairways.

U-3 was selected in 1936. It was observed at Arlington, Va., and Beltsville, Md., and released in 1957 for fairway use. Since then, it has been extensively used from Kansas to Baltimore and farther south. It has not been used extensively in the extreme South. It has to be planted by the use of vegetative parts in order to be like the parent plant.

Ormond is a strain of bermuda originally from Ormond Beach, Fla., and has a blue-green appearance. It is vigorous, susceptible to dollar spot, but somewhat tolerant to leaf spot. It is well adapted to Florida conditions and is being used as a fairway grass throughout that state. Its lack of cold tolerance has restricted its use farther north.

Tiflawn was originally selected as Tiflaw 57 and still is known by this number but was released in 1952 as Tiflawn. It is a darker green color than Common bermuda. It makes a

\*Manual of the Grasses of the United States, A. S. Hitchcock

dense, weed-free turf and is more disease and frost tolerant than Common. It is an F<sub>1</sub> hybrid from pasture breeding research at the Georgia Coastal Plain Experiment Station.

**Texturf 10** was originally from a country club fairway in Corsicana, Texas, and was released as T-47. It has a dark green color with an early spring recovery. It has few seed heads and is resistant to leaf spot.

**Tifway** is one of the latest grasses released (1960, Georgia Coastal Plain Experiment Station) for specific use on fairways and has shown that it is well-suited for this purpose. It is a chance hybrid between *Cynodon transvaalensis* and *C. dactylon* which appeared in a lot of seed of *C. transvaalensis* supplied by Dr. D. Meredith of South Africa, in 1954. The chromosome number (2n-27) and other characteristics of Tifway indicate that its male parent must have been *C. dactylon* (2n-36).

Tifway is dark green in color and at the present time shows to be disease resistant. It has stiff leaves which makes it superior, for fairway use, over some of the softer leaf bermudass. It is not very cold tolerant but does well

where Common is adapted. adapted.

There are several bermudass not released for fairway use, but which are being used with success.

**Tifgreen** was selected at Tifton 328 at Georgia Coastal Plain Experiment Station and was released in 1956 as a bermuda for green use. It is the best of an F<sub>1</sub> hybrid (2n-27) between *C. dactylon* (2n-36) and *C. transvaalensis* (2n-18). It has been planted on many fairways and makes a fine turf if properly managed.

**Everglades** is thought to be a hybrid between *C. dactylon* and *C. transvaalensis*. It is a natural occurring fine leaf grass selected at Bayshore Golf Club, Miami Beach, Fla. It has been used on greens but also is used on fairways and with proper management it creates a fine fairway.

**Bayshore** is also known as Gene Tift and was selected at Bayshore Golf Club, Miami Beach, Fla., for green use. It is light green in color and is a fine textured grass. It has been used as a fairway grass but now is being replaced with superior selections. Some courses still use it in extreme south Florida.

## COMING EVENTS

### March 9-11

Turfgrass Conference  
Iowa State University  
Ames, Iowa

### March 11-12

Turfgrass Conference  
Michigan State University  
East Lansing, Michigan

### March 11-12

Massachusetts Turf Conference  
University of Massachusetts  
Amherst, Massachusetts

### March 17-18

Maine Turfgrass Conference  
University of Maine  
Orono, Maine

### March 22

USGA Golf Course Management Conference  
Pittsburgh Hilton  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

### March 23-24

Turf Conference  
University of Wisconsin  
Madison, Wisconsin

### March 24

USGA Golf Course Management Conference  
The Chase-Park Plaza  
St. Louis, Missouri

### March 24-26

Royal Canadian Golf Assoc. Turfgrass Conf.  
Toronto, Canada

### March 26

USGA Golf Course Management Conference  
Sheraton-Palace Hotel  
San Francisco, California

### March 27

Massachusetts G. A. Annual Meeting  
Harvard Club  
Boston, Massachusetts