

TURF TWISTERS

ZOYSIA FAIRWAYS

Question: We are interested in the use of zoysia for fairways. Can you give us an opinion as to its suitability? (MISSOURI)

Answer: Zoysia produces the densest, firmest turf imaginable when it is well established. It is difficult to establish because of the fact that it must be planted from sprigs or plugs. Once established, maintenance requirements are relatively low, and there are very few pests that are likely to cause trouble.

One possible objection to zoysia is that the turf is so dense and springy that it may tire the golfer to walk on it. This build-up can be controlled, however, by close mowing and vigilance to forestall the formation of too great a mat.

MOWING MERION

Question: We understand that Merion bluegrass can be mowed closer than common Kentucky bluegrass. Why? (Illinois)

Answer: It is true that Merion can be cut a little closer than can common bluegrass. Merion is a shorter growing plant with relatively short internodes and leaves. It also tends to tiller more than does common bluegrass.

NIGHT MOWING

Question: Is night mowing healthier for the grass plant? (Penn)

Answer: In hot summer months, it appears likely that mowing during the day may cause some damage. Damage to tissues normally results in increased respiration rates. It is believed that night mowing may help to alleviate these effects. However, where disease is a problem and dew is heavy, bruising the grass and then allowing it to stay wet all night may contribute to fungus activity.

With our present knowledge, an unqualified answer is not possible.