

TURF TWISTERS

REALLY!

Question: Really, how close to the edge of a green may I place the cup? (Utah)

Answer: If you're looking for an exact answer, we do not have it. Many factors must be considered, but first and always, use good judgment in deciding what will give fair results. The USGA tries to start, if possible, at least 5 paces away from the edge of the green. If a bunker is close by, the distance should be greater, especially if the approach is over the bunker and more than a pitch shot. The holding quality of the green, the length of the shot to the green, the probable prevailing conditions for play for the day and the design of the hole are other factors that must be taken into consideration. But five paces seems minimum.

FESCUES FOR GREENS?

Question: I have recently obtained a copy of "Turf Management" which was brought to my attention by clients who queried the use of fescue in their greens.

Their doubts were raised by the implication at the top of page 100 that this grass will not support close cutting.

As many of the finest—hence close-cut—greens I know have a very large proportion of fescue, I am wondering if there is a mistake in publication or if the seed you have in the United States is not a pure strain. At least I feel an exception should be made in the case of S59 creeping red fescue.

Can you elucidate on the foregoing? (France)

Answer: Most fescues are morphologically adapted to take a rather close cut but have difficulty in standing up under the summer temperatures in most areas of the United States.

In the case of the variety S59, this is a sports turf variety developed at the Aberystwyth Plant Breeding Station in Wales and it as well as some other grasses such as ryegrass and timothy are used successfully for this purpose in European climates.

Many of the European grass strains are presently under test in the United States and some show promise; however, they are not commercially available in most cases. Also, as previously mentioned, the fescues do not grow well in hot weather and most European introductions seem to be affected more so than the American strains under test.

Musser's book is correct for the area of its adaptation; however, you will find some passages in direct conflict with accepted European turf culture because of ecological differences.

SEEDLINGS UP—THEN DOWN

Question: I had very poor results with overseeding my bermuda greens last year with *Poa trivialis*, bent and fescue. The seed seemed to come up in patches with the general cover very spotty and subsequent overseedings of the thin spots were also not very successful. What can you recommend? (Louisiana)

Answer: Questioning revealed that no fungicide was being used prior to or after overseeding and we suspect that many of your seedlings were lost to damping off diseases. You should use a curative rate of one of the fungicides normally recommended for damping off prior to overseeding and then follow up with preventative rates of the fungicide for 4 to 5 weeks after seeding. The trouble was not so much with the grasses planted or conditions of their planting as with subsequent seedling diseases. You might also read Dr. Paul Alexander's article in this issue.