

Dixie Grass

Digitaria serotina or *Syntherisma serotinum*

C. V. PIPER

Our illustration shows a perennial creeping grass, native, and very common in the South, especially in sandy soils, from Delaware to Florida and Mississippi, mostly within 100 miles of the coast. It is of interest to golfers in the region indicated because it is very often found on golf courses both on putting-greens and on the fairways. The grass makes a dense, low mat, so short that it rarely requires mowing. The short, broad leaves are fuzzy with short, white hairs. On putting-greens it is usually in scattered circular patches a foot or so in diameter; but not rarely



Dixie Grass (*Digitaria serotina*). 1. A large plant, about one-half natural size. 2. Front view of an enlarged spikelet. 3. Back view of same. As the grass is seen on the putting-green it makes a very dense mat which, from the short leaves, somewhat resembles mouse-ear chickweed.

Dixie grass will crowd all other grasses from the green. Such turf is not at all a bad putting surface, but a little slow. The grass is never cultivated; that is, seed is never gathered, and probably could not be except at high cost. Nevertheless, the grass invades all close-cut turf within its area of occurrence. It is in the main a desirable grass even if it invades other grass and mars the uniformity of the turf. The grass is botanically related to crab-grass, but from every turf consideration is not at all comparable. It has never gained a common name; so we are suggesting to our Southern friends that they call it Dixie grass.

Notable Green-Keepers: William J. Rockefeller

Inverness Club, Toledo, Ohio.

William J. Rockefeller—"Rocky," as he is familiarly called—was born in 1864, at Harford Mills, Cortland County, New York, not far from the birthplace of his famous but remote or unclassified cousin John D., and though they have not trod the same path of life we doubt if Rocky would trade his job at Inverness, and the contentment of his home, for all that John D. has.



Mr. William J. Rockefeller, green-keeper, Inverness Club, Toledo, Ohio. Mr. Rockefeller frequently feels the need of a horse to assist him in getting around the course for inspection purposes and supervision of work in progress.