

sand on the face of a mound), and in at least one case he has provided, just in front of the green and just behind it, such a sand slash on the face of a green mound. At this latter hole one judges distance with a confidence that must do much to steady the player in his approach shot. The ordinary golf club may perhaps despair of rivaling Columbia for condition of turf and many other things; but such refinements as color of flags and other aids to estimating distance do not involve construction difficulties or expense and are within the reach of the weakest clubs.

How We Controlled *Poa Annua* at Old Elm

W. A. ALEXANDER

Our eighteen greens at the Old Elm Club were constructed upon scientific plans as to drainage, contours, proportions of soils, fertilizers, etc. This was ten years ago. The greens cost much money and a great deal of personal effort. They were a valuable possession owned by one hundred and fifty members of the Old Elm Club who had contributed their money for the purpose of having an almost semi-private golf course where the majority of them over fifty years of age could play without being interrupted, and enjoy the fruits of their labors. Most of us had passed that period in life where we had any time to waste anywhere trailing behind foursomes of juniors, women and children, and tournaments. Now, these putting greens these men paid for, as they did for the clubhouse, the fairways, the traps, the drainage, the locker room, and everything else connected with the Club; but the putting greens were given to those in charge of them in trust to care for. They had cost a great deal of money, as above stated; they were delicate; they had to be nourished, watered and cared for because they were young and delicate. A putting green, we knew, was a place for grass, and a certain kind of grass. If we had wanted a weed bed we could have gotten that easily; but we wanted a putting green of grass only. Therefore, we did the only things that could be done so far as we knew, namely, to see that the grass that was put into the putting greens remained there and was added to, if needed, from time to time, and that anything which came into the putting greens and which should not be there was removed.

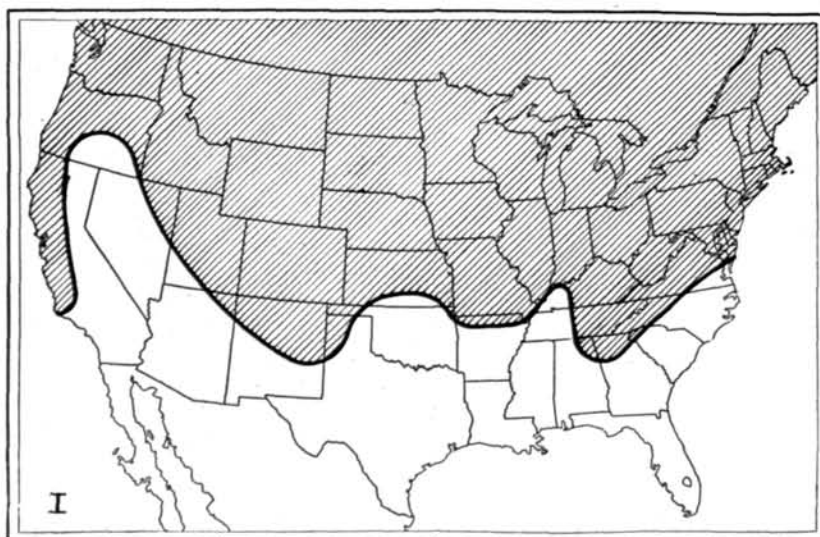
We have never regarded *Poa annua* as being any different from any other weed so far as being an enemy to our thoroughbred putting greens was concerned. We would not have taken a sunflower two feet high out of the putting green any more quickly than we would have removed a bunch of *Poa annua* the size of a dollar. Anything that was not our original sowing (which by the way was mixed bents and fescues), we would have taken out. We were not conscious of having accomplished anything of great importance until our attention was called to the fact that we were the only club known that had kept *Poa annua* out of our putting greens. *Poa annua* is all about us in every direction. All of the golf courses in our locality have it, on from one-half to all of their greens. Some of the courses have nothing but *Poa annua* on their putting greens, and of course have relatively poor greens for a month or two at least. It is

everywhere all about us, but we pay no attention whatever to that fact. If it comes into our putting greens we cut it out with a knife, with a hole cutter, with a chisel, or with any other tool that may best suit, according to the size of the spot infested. The whole problem of keeping *Poa annua* out of a putting green is exactly the same as for any other weed that should not be there. It is not a scientific problem—it is a practical problem. It is not one of indolence and superficial management—it is one of eternal vigilance, of common sense, of treating the putting greens just as you would treat any other valuable thing that you owned, and especially so when it is a thing that is owned by a number of men in an organization, and not by you alone, who is held as the trust officer for the club.

(The Old Elm putting greens are unique in so far as we know among northern putting greens, in their entire freedom from *Poa annua*. As above detailed, this has been accomplished by thorough, conscientious hard weeding from the very beginning. It is a noteworthy accomplishment. Whether success would attend similar efforts at other clubs where *Poa annua* has become very abundant on all the greens, is open to question. However, the remarkable record at Old Elm is one worthy of the most careful consideration.—C. V. Piper.)

Geography of Fine Turf Grasses

The accompanying maps show approximately the areas where each of the important turf grasses will succeed. If one will refer to these maps he will avoid making mistakes as to the grasses to use. The most troublesome area is that which marks about the southern limit of bluegrass and the bents and the northern limit of Bermuda grass.



MAP I. KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS, REDTOP AND WHITE CLOVER. The hatched area is that in which Kentucky bluegrass succeeds best. White clover and redtop occupy the same area, but both thrive well much farther southward.