

showed a fairly vigorous and healthy growth, with the exception of the slender wheat grass and the rescue grass, neither of which ever did germinate.

The experimental plots were given the same treatment as the greens on the golf courses throughout the season except that no effort was made to combat the brown-patch fungus. The plots also were very frequently inspected, and the most promising grasses for putting-green purposes were the Kentucky bluegrass, the Wimmera rye grass, and the meadow fescue.

Seedling redtop is of a finer texture than any of the above-mentioned grasses and would be superior to anything we have yet tried for putting-green purposes in this section if it were not for the fact that it is so extremely susceptible to the attack of brown-patch. We have found, however, that in localities where brown-patch is not especially bad, as on the Palm Beach Country Club course, we can use redtop to considerable advantage on our greens by using with it two or three other grasses which are entirely immune to attack by the fungus. Last year our best green at the Palm Beach Country Club was seeded to a mixture of one-third part each of redtop, meadow fescue, and Pacey's Improved Short Rye Grass. There was never any brown-patch on this particular green last season, though it is true we dusted all of the greens about twice a week with Bordeaux powder to prevent the appearance of the fungus. The other greens were sowed with a mixture of about one-third each of redtop, red fescue, and Italian rye grass, and in spite of the dusting of these twice a week with Bordeaux powder the brown-patch was at times very bad.

The Wimmera rye grass is much finer than the perennial rye and stools out very nicely, making a dense, close mat. It is therefore thought that the mixture used with best results last year, namely, that of redtop, meadow fescue, and Pacey's Short Rye Grass, could be still further improved by substituting the Wimmera grass for the Pacey's, and it is our intention to try this mixture on at least one of our greens at the Palm Beach Country Club this fall.

At the Miami Country Club the brown-patch fungus has always given three or four times as much trouble as at Palm Beach. This may be due to the fact that the former course is built on low land close to the Miami River and that the soil is much heavier than at Palm Beach. We have had so much trouble with the fungus at Miami that it has been found advisable to eliminate the redtop entirely from the seed mixture used there. This fall we are trying a mixture of one-third each of Kentucky bluegrass, meadow fescue, and Pacey's Improved Short Rye Grass for our greens in Miami, and with this we hope to eliminate the fungus trouble entirely and to produce a very excellent green.

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### **Creeping Thyme (*Thymus serpyllum*) a Valuable Plant for Fairways With Light Soil**

MAYNARD M. METCALF, *The Orchard Laboratory, Oberlin, Ohio.*

On the great golf course at Woods Hole, Massachusetts, creeping thyme has come into a good many of the fairways and is rapidly spreading. It makes fine turf mats and its purple blossoms do not obscure balls which lie among them. The Woods Hole course has a rather light gravelly soil

not favorable for the best growth of turf, and the thyme is proving a decided benefit to the fairways. It seems probable that it would be a good fairway plant upon many thin-soiled courses. Only one objection to the thyme has been noted; divot holes in the thyme mats give rather worse



Creeping thyme; a portion of a plant (about natural size) and a flower (much enlarged)

lies than they do in ordinary turf, though a club cuts through the mat to reach the low-lying ball more easily than through heavy grass turf.

Propagation of *Thymus serpyllum* from sods shipped eight hundred miles by express is now being tried. If successful the results will be reported later in THE BULLETIN.

(Creeping thyme is a beautiful plant when in bloom, and patches of it are common, especially in the rough, on many New York and New England courses.—EDITORS.)

**Boy Scouts as caddies.**—The Ekwanok Country Club, Manchester, Vermont, employed thirty Boy Scouts as caddies this season with extremely satisfactory results. The lads are mostly from Cambridge, Massachusetts, and live in true Boy Scout fashion in a camp furnished by the club, which also supplies the services of a negro cook. Each morning the boys march in column to the clubhouse. At first it was feared that there would be much friction with the local boys, who had become rather unruly as caddies. As a matter of fact, the nice, gentlemanly manners of the Boy Scouts have been imitated by the local caddies, much to their improvement. It would seem that this plan of using Boy Scouts at summer courses is capable of wide application, as it will insure good caddy service to a club and also furnish healthful recreation for the boys during their school vacation season.