

Turf Experiments of the Florida Experiment Station, Gainesville, Fla.

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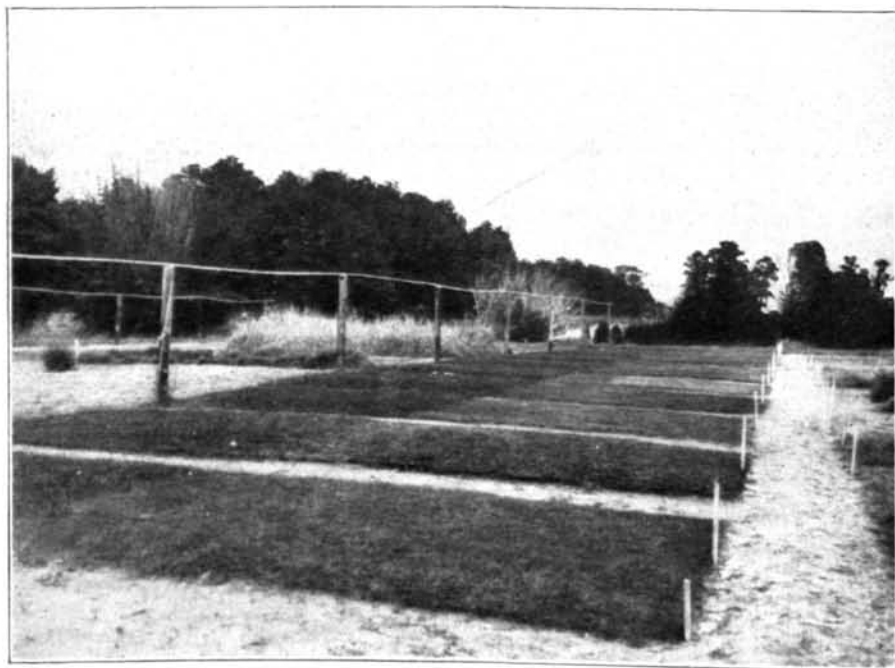
At the Florida Experiment Station there is a series of turf plots that should be of great interest and importance to all golf clubs in Florida and in the states along the Gulf Coast. The grasses being tested include several tropical and subtropical species new to the United States, mostly introduced by the United States Department of Agriculture. The illustrations give a general view of the grass plots and also close-up views of a few of the more interesting grasses. In addition, there is a series of plots to show the relative values of the different winter grasses sown on the perennial grass. Some of the grasses are primarily of value for fairways, others for putting greens.

Some of the newer and more interesting grasses are the following:

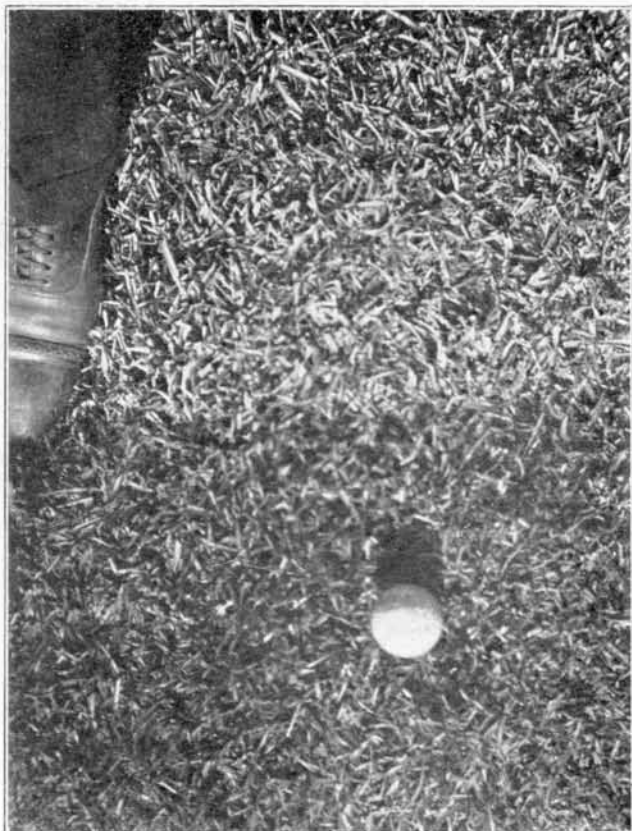
Centipede grass (*Eremochloa ophiuroides*).—This is a grass with surface creeping runners, not greatly unlike carpet grass. It is a native of China and makes up the bulk of the pastures of that region. It is a splendid fairway grass even in loose sandy soil, and not a bad putting green grass if kept well rolled. It is easily propagated vegetatively, which method must be employed for propagation until a seed supply is available.

Bahia grass (*Paspalum notatum*).—This is the common grass of western Cuba and forms the fairways at the Havana Country Club. It makes a very firm turf even on loose sand. It is easily propagated vegetatively, but the seed does not germinate very well.

Blue couch-grass (*Digitaria didactyla*).—This is an Australian grass much like Bermuda grass, but decidedly blue in color. It grows very well even in sand and makes a fine dense turf fit for putting greens. As yet no



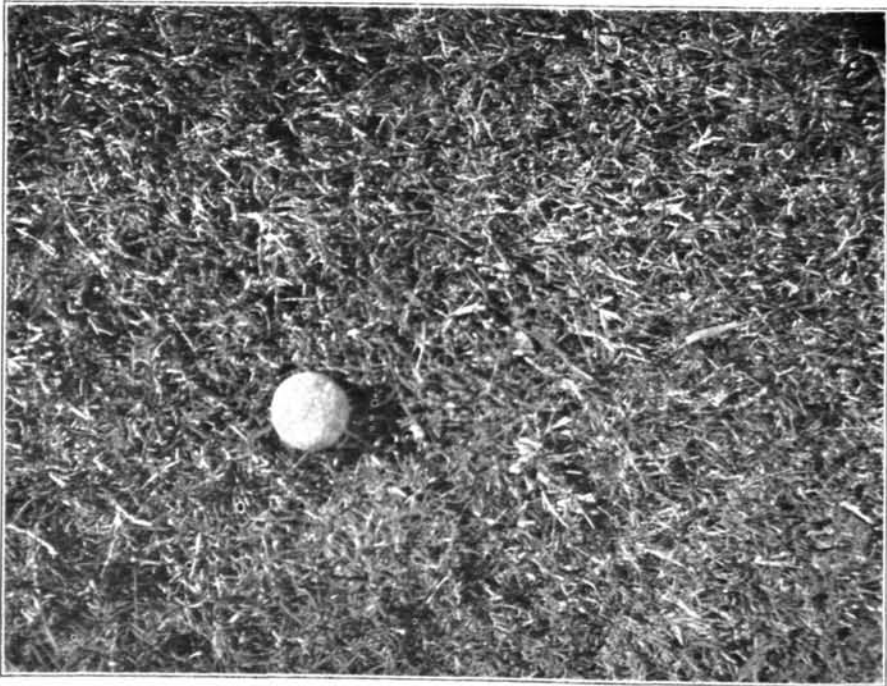
Golf Grass Plots at the Florida Experiment Station



Centipede Grass



Bahia Grass



Atlanta Bermuda Grass



Giant Bermuda Grass

seed supplies are available, so the vegetative method of propagation must be resorted to.

Bermuda grass.—The plots include Giant Bermuda; St. Lucie grass, a fine variety without rootstocks; ordinary Bermuda; and Atlanta Bermuda. A comparison of these four is very instructive. The first is fit only for fairways, but some South Florida courses have it on their putting greens; the last is best of all for putting greens.

St. Augustine grass (*Stenotaphrum secundatum*).—Not at all a bad grass for fairways, but too coarse for putting greens. Will grow on the seashore where covered by high tide, and is therefore desirable where ocean spray is a factor.

Giant carpet grass (*Axonopus furcatus*).—A native southern grass and splendid for fairways. There is much at the New Orleans Country Club and other courses in the south.

Korean grass (*Osterdamia japonica*).—A splendid grass for tees and fairways. Large patches occur on the fairways of the Palm Beach Country Club and of the Miami Country Club. At both of these clubs it is being used for tees. Seed is produced in Japan, but it is always infested with an ergot and therefore not permitted to enter the trade.

The experiments at Gainesville are in charge of Prof. J. M. Scott and Mr. W. E. Stokes, and are being conducted in cooperation with the Green Section. Everyone interested is invited to visit the plots, and any Green Section club can, upon application, secure any of the new grasses for experimental trial. At the present time these trials will have to be by the vegetative method, as no seed supplies are available.



Giant Carpet Grass