

BERMUDA GRASS SEED

The necessity for reseeding large areas of Bermuda grass turf on Southern golf courses this spring raised several questions as to the relative speed of germination of the ordinary Bermuda grass seed as compared with seed from which the hulls have been removed. It has been claimed that the ordinary seed is as much as three or four weeks slower in germinating than is the dehulled seed of Bermuda grass. Such differences would be of much importance in reseeding Bermuda turf.

In order to ascertain how much quicker the dehulled seed would germinate, a test was conducted in a greenhouse in April under favorable growing conditions. Part of a lot of good Bermuda seed was dehulled mechanically. Equal weights from each kind of seed were carefully weighed in duplicate and planted in boxes of soil. Plantings were all made on April 8 and by April 16 a large number of seedlings were showing. On this and each succeeding day until April 28 the seedlings were removed and counted.

It was found that approximately 50 per cent. more seedlings came up from the samples of dehulled seed than from the samples of the ordinary seed during the period of 20 days that the count was continued (887 and 885 for the two boxes of dehulled as against 623 and 611 for ordinary seed).

Seventy-eight per cent. of the seedlings from dehulled seed appeared during the first 8 days, as compared with 46 per cent. from the ordinary seed. However, from the common seed 77 per cent. of the seedlings appeared during the first 10 days.

From this particular test with a representative sample of good seed planted under favorable germinating conditions, it would appear that the dehulled (hulled) seed is two days quicker than the ordinary (unhulled) seed of Bermuda grass. This under special conditions may be an important difference. Since three-fourths of the ordinary seeds that germinated were up in 10 days, the difference in speed of germination due to presence or absence of hulls is not a matter of general importance. In cooler, less favorable conditions the difference no doubt would be somewhat greater.

Although the dehulled seed does not germinate much more rapidly under favorable conditions than does the ordinary Bermuda grass seed, it has other advantages which justify a somewhat increased price. A much larger number of seedlings is obtained from each pound of seed and also there are likely to be fewer weed seeds in a good grade of dehulled seed than similar grades of ordinary seed.

CUTWORMS AND ARMY WORMS

Cutworms are naked caterpillars, the larvae of night-flying winged moths or "millers." They frequently appear in greens during warm weather to cut off small areas of grass each night, making a blemished and unsightly putting surface. Usually the cutworm hides during the day in a burrow which may be marked at either end by the closely-cut almost scalped patches.