QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q. Where can I buy seed of Merion bluegrass? (Kentucky).

A. Merion bluegrass seed will be handled through regular trade channels. See your regular dealer first. If he can't supply you write to us and we will furnish a list of seedsmen known to us who are near you. Also, you can consult Turf Research Review and contact seedsmen who are listed among our Green Section Service Subscribers.

Q. What are some of the features of Kentucky 31 fescue which give it a better rating for turf than Alta fescue? (Ohio).

A. Kentucky 31 fescue is more disease-resistant. After several years under close mowing we find a denser turf and more plants per unit area on the Kentucky 31 plots. The turf is finer in texture and the leaves seem less harsh. When seed heads form in spring the Kentucky 31 needs less mowing because it is lower-growing.

Q. Will regular aerifying eliminate fairy rings? (Illinois).

A. Regular aerifying may not eliminate the actual fairy ring but it tends to eliminate the effects. Fairy ring damage is the result of desiccation (a 75¢ word for extreme drought). The fungus in the soil traps air and won't let water in. Cultivation of the soil admits water and the drought is over.

Q. Our firm is not active in handling turf supplies but we would like to support the work which the Green Section is doing. Are we permitted to join your organization?

A. Any firm interested in Better Turf (for any purpose) may become a Green Section Service Subscriber. The fee is $35 a year (the same as an 18-hole golf club pays for a membership in the USGA). The yearly fee is split 70-30, for the Green Section's Education Fund, and for the USGA General Fund, respectively. Our Education Fund is used to support co-operative research, to set up research grants, and to establish turf research fellowships for the purpose of training more young men in this specialized field of agriculture. At the same time we develop needed facts. We work with a number of leading agriculture colleges throughout the country in this National Co-ordinated Turf Program. We welcome your firm into our official family.

Q. How can we control chickweed in our fairways? The turf is a mixture of bents, *Poa annua,* some clover, and a little bluegrass.

A. Two chemicals will control chickweed with minimum damage to turf grasses. They are sodium arsenite and potassium cynate.

Sodium arsenite has been used successfully for this purpose for about 20 years. The latest recommendation is to use it at one pound to the acre (equivalent if liquid is used) in from 50 to 100 gallons of water, with a good wetting agent. Use it only when soil is moist, when turf grasses are growing well, and when temperatures are under 85° F.

Potassium cyanate is marketed under about a dozen trade names. Follow manufacturers' directions. Some formulations combine potassium cyanate and sodium arsenite and the mixture looks promising. Potasium cyanate has been in use for selective crabgrass control and for chickweed control for about four years. It is non-poisonous and it breaks down into fertilizer elements.

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Visitors

Dr. Marvin H. Ferguson, Research Agronomist for the Green Section, now on leave with the Military Air Transport Service, spent a day with us recently. His visit was timed with the completion of our zoysia seed harvest (July 6). Dr. Ferguson studied the nutrition of Z-52 zoysia in relation to seed yields for his Ph.D. thesis at the University of Maryland. His findings now are being tested on a field scale.

TALL FESCUE DID THE JOB

Taylor Boyd at Camargo Country Club, Cincinnati, examines a steep bank between a bunker and putting surface which finally was stabilized with tall fescue after all other grasses tried on it had failed.

Merion Bluegrass Seed

Discussions with growers at the American Seed Trade Association's convention in Cincinnati, June 18-20, indicate that the 1951 crop of Merion bluegrass seed may be approximately 100,000 pounds. This should be good news to USGA member clubs which can use this superior turf grass to advantage in tees, fairways, and lawns. The price most likely will be at about the same level as last year. Those who wish to plant Merion bluegrass this fall are urged to place their orders at once because demand from the lawn trade is very heavy.

Cost per pound is not the best way to evaluate Merion bluegrass. On the basis of cost per acre, Merion should cost about the same as common bluegrass. In order to accomplish this, one must give maximum attention to seed bed preparation and to fertilization.

A number of fairways in the Philadelphia area have been seeded to Merion bluegrass at 22 pounds to the acre and the stand is considered successful. Some are using 44 pounds to the acre (1 pound to 1,000 square feet). The Green Section considered 22 pounds to the acre a fair rate of seeding under a good system of renovation. The rate of 44 pounds to the acre is considered to be the upper limit under any conditions.

When planning to renovate and seed we urge consideration of the use of sodium arsenite, together with thorough cultivation and aerification. Under Beltsville conditions we have had consistent success in seeding after the use of the Aerifier with one-inch spoons. The use of sodium arsenite checks weeds and other grasses and gives the new seedlings a better chance. Consult your local turf authorities for details of treatments.

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Sulfur Scarce, Use Less Superphosphate

Many turf areas have received superphosphat in excess in years past. It is time now to take stock of your situation and determine how little superphosphate you can use and still maintain good turf.

It has been proved that, where clippings are not removed, there is only a slight loss of phosphorus each year on lawn and fairway turf. With sulfur a war-scarce material, superphosphate has become a critical fertilizer material. Perhaps your turf won't need phosphorus this fall. Why don't you check with your nearest soil-testing laboratory and help save sulfur?

[Note: Please do not send soil samples to the Green Section for soil testing. We do not perform this service inasmuch as state experiment stations and commercial laboratories have been equipped to do the job so well. If in doubt, consult your county agent, who is your local representative for the state experiment station. Information on soil testing is one of the services which county agents conduct for all agricultural enterprises, including turf.]

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South African Turf Researcher Here

Dr. Dudley Meredith, of the South African Explosives Company, Johannesburg, S. A., is visiting the United States and expects to inspect a number of leading turf research stations. He landed at Boston, June 28, on the S. S. Robin Kettering and plans to spend a week in Washington, D. C., before starting across the country.