

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.