Michie Stadium, West Point, N. Y., three weeks after seeding to 50-50 mixture of Merion and Kentucky bluegrass. Seed was pre-germinated.

Closeup of bluegrass in Michie Stadium three weeks after seeding. Col. R. P. Reed supervised the project.

1956 Turf

By FRED V. GRAU

Choose grass that will be permanent • Check this summary for leading turfgrasses in general use throughout the U.S. • New strains to be considered

This old world of ours is in a violent period of climatic changes. It may be too hot one year, too cold the next — the same with wet or dry. Emphasis for years to come must be upon those grasses that can tolerate the greatest extremes of climate with minimum requirements of irrigation. They must have resistance to disease and insects, and maximum ability to recover from unforeseen and unpredictable injury.

Selection of grasses is No. 1 on my list. Without a good sturdy grass all the fine equipment and expensive labor is in vain. We seek grasses which will be permanent once they are planted and which will give maximum satisfaction with minimum care. Our program of developing superior grasses is in its infancy.

For the record it will be well to name here the leading turfgrasses in general use over the country.

Kentucky bluegrass: Standard. Has definite regional adaptation, intolerant of close mowing demanded by many sports, susceptible to leafspot disease which weakens the grass just in time for crabgrass invasion. Resistant to rust.

Merion Kentucky bluegrass. Has a definite regional adaptation, tolerates close mowing, highly resistant to leafspot, susceptible to rust, especially when not properly fed.

It has been shown that 50-50 mixtures of Merion and standard Kentucky bluegrass may have definite advantages over either alone. The weak point of one grass is masked by the strength of the other. Best suggestion: Buy straight seed of each, mix your own.

There are other bluegrasses on the horizon but performance to date does not seem to be enough better than standard Kentucky to warrant suggesting more than trial plantings. All have been rated lower than Merion in test trials in the east. (Arboretum, Delta, Troy, Minnesota 95).

Better bluegrasses than those we have today are on the way.

Fescues have dropped in popularity for turf use. Diseases, heat and wear quickly ruin turf of fine-leaf fescues. The new Pennlawn, now on the market, may revive interest in fescues. There should be a trial plot (nursery) of Pennlawn on every golf course in its range of adaptation.

Tall fescues are becoming more popular in turf circles for certain areas and types of use since the first large lawn was planted to Alta in 1947 at Beltsville. The coarse blades and clumpy nature become less conspicuous when seeded heavily 5 to 10 pounds to 1000 sq. ft., and when adequately fertilized and properly mowed. Resistant to drought, disease, wide range of soil pH, and insects, tall fescue deserves a thorough trial in test plots alone and in mixtures. Alta and Ken-

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**Grau—Turf Roundup**

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Tifgreen (328) is now being tested on a Tifhine (127) rose and fell with almost unmeasurable charm. Emphasis on the concepts of “collargrass” around bent greens where crow-foot (goosegrass) and common Bermuda are problems. Texture is like bent. One course has planted 18 greens and 18 tees to Uganda-grass (Pinecrest, Va.). Uganda-grass is not the same as the old African Bermudas.

Magenisgrass (to be released by several experiment stations in spring, 1957) is now billed as Sun turf, for lawns. In tests it looks promising; should be tried in course nurseries.

Genetift, Ormond, Everglades, Pinehurst selection and others — each has its place, each is good in its own right. We have a big job ahead of us to sort out and evaluate the many strains for various uses.

Zoysias (common, Meyer, Emerald) have their place but have been over-promoted. New strains are being studied. Release in the future will be guided to indicate areas of adaptation and use. Meyer zoysia claims, performance and selling have been well documented by National Better Business Bureau, Kenneth B. Wilson, Pres. Early enthusiasm on Emerald seems to have cooled according to the few reports that have been made.

**Fertilizers Are Reviewed**

Organic, (Milorganite, Agrinite) still going strong, supplemented by Ureaform fertilizers (Nitroform, Borden’s 38, Uramite). Long lasting and “foolproofness” dominate this field.

Quickly available soluble nitrogen fertilizers still in heavy demand (sulfate of ammonia, ammonium nitrate) because of what they can do quickly on sturdy grass.

Burning is feared by amateur users; welcomed by professional men when controlled. Ureaform goods will increase in stature and tonnage without greatly affecting other types.

Most turf still is starved for N; won’t be caught up for a long time.

**Soil Sterilants Grow in Use**

Cyamamid, Dowfume, Vapam (newcomer) are being used more and more to assure

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**Turfgrass Meetings**


Jan. 21-24 — Rutgers One-Week Turf Course, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N. J.

Feb. 10-15 — 28th National Turfgrass Conference & Show, GCSA, Kentucky Hotel, Louisville.

Feb. 25-28 — Cornell Turfgrass Conference, Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.

Feb. 27-Mar. 1 — Minnesota Turf Conference, Curtis Hotel, Minneapolis.
low-cost weed control and purity of planted strains. Each material has its limitations. The user's choice depends on a number of factors. Use of these materials is increasing.

**Pests, Diseases and Insects**

Nematodes pushing Curvularia and Poa annua for No. 1 pest spot. If you can't identify your trouble call it nematodes. Maybe it is poor drainage but both need careful study to detect. Gene Nutter and associates in Florida really working hard on problem.

Diseases really are well under control. Frank Howard, Rhode Island, has done an outstanding job. Manufacturers are to be commended for research and development of broad-spectrum fungicides.

Insects no longer seem to hold terror for turf people who are informed. Sod webworm is mistaken for dollarspot but then it probably always will be by a few. High-powered safe insecticides largely have eliminated insects as a major turf problem.

**Water Problems Serious**

Water conservation and proper use has risen to a high position on agenda of most turfgrass groups. It is serious in the Southwest. No area is free from the need for careful study of the subject.

We need "camel" grasses that can go long periods without a drink and still provide good playing surfaces. Soils need to be made and kept open in absorb water quickly. Excessive use of water degrades good turf, is wasteful, raises costs in several ways.

Golf groups everywhere could take the load off the superintendent's back by popularizing firm greens, depopularizing sloppy soft greens that will hold a low hard-hit brassie. Many troubles arise from excess water on areas not built to handle volume.

Research, extension, resident teaching, and the press can do much to awaken "water consciousness".

Poa annua will find its level with continued study and discussion. "If you can't lick 'em, jine 'em". Warm-season grasses will grow in popularity as we learn to use poa as the natural winter companion. It never needs reseeding, once you have it. Some research pointed this way is encouraging. De

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**Equipment Improvement Continues**

Equipment is improving steadily with keen competition and awareness of the demand for turf quality. A club is paying for good modern equipment whether or not it has bought it. Once it is bought there must be a man on the staff to keep it in top operating condition. The machine is only as good as its operator.

In the 1951 Roundup I mentioned "vacuum cleaners for fairways". This is still good. Ben Warren (III) has one operating successfully on his turf nursery. Removing clippings will be a "must" where we have vigorous grasses that respond to fertilizers, grasses that resist decay, and where we have eliminated insects which would grind up the clippings and mix them with the soil.

Extension Service facilities are paid for whether we use them or not. Extension services of the agricultural colleges are taking a more active part in turfgrass affairs. Extension service is there available for the asking at no cost.

You may say, "Our county agent doesn't know anything about greens". Maybe he doesn't — but the specialists are available at his request. Maybe he can help you in business management, in setting up a budget, in drafting reports, in setting up demonstrations, in getting speakers for meetings. Don't miss the chance to invite your county agent to work with you. He might welcome an invitation to your meetings.

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**Gala Opening for New Country Club of Florida**

Golf notables from the midwest and east attended the formal opening of the new Country Club of Florida, near Delray Beach, Dec. 1.

The course is on a 1250 acre tract which eventually will be sites of winter homes of a select group. Robert Bruce Harris designed an interesting, beautiful and testing course on rolling ground that once was a dairy farm. Charles Maddox built the course and Norman Johnson became its supt. while construction was in progress. Johnson has on his staff two first class superintendents, Matt Bezak, formerly in charge of Chicago district clubs, and Jerry Vanasse, on leave from a Connecticut club.

The course was brought into remarkably fine condition for a new course on opening day. Holes of the course are named for native birds.

Five residences for occupancy by members, and a charming small clubhouse have been completed.

Johnny Farrell of Baltusrol is professional. He is assisted by his sons, John Jr. and Jimmy.

Carleton Blunt, Chicago attorney who is head of the Chick Evans Caddie Scholarship foundation, started the new private club off by financing it to the extent of approximately $1 million.

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**Dawson Heads Mid-Atlantic**

Thomas W. Dawson, of the Country Club of Virginia, Richmond, has been elected pres. of the Mid-Atlantic Association of supt. Other new officers include Paul E. Weiss, Jr. Sparrows Point (Md.) CC, vp, and Francis Coupe, Washington G &CC, Arlington, Va., secy-treas.