



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 unpreventable 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 maxi-

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This is the second of two articles. The first appeared in October, 1956 GOLFDOM, page 58.

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mum 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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