This old world of ours is in a violent pet it*! 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 great-
est extremes of climate with minimum re-
quirements of irrigation. They must have re-
stance to disease and insects, and maximum
ability to recover from unforeseen and unpre-
ventable injury.

Selection of grasses is No. 1 on my list.
Without a good sturdy grass all the fine equip-
ment and expensive labor is in vain. We
seek grasses which will be permanent once
they are planted and which will give maxi-

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

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 mow-
ing 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 han trial plant-
ings. 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 conspic-
uous 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-

(Continued on page 65)