



Seed didn't germinate in box on right in soil mix of 6 parts sand, 1 part soil and 1 part peat. There's dense grass in left box from same seed in mix that had 2 parts of the same soil and 1 part peat. (Right. Divots on Bermuda tee were filled with soil containing poa trivialis seed. (10 pounds of poa trivialis have as many seeds as 96 pounds of domestic rye.)

Divot Repair

Poa Trivialis and fine leaf fescue mixture are recommended for a quick and presentable cover

BY O. J. NOER

The necessity for replacing divots on tees and on fairways has been always stressed. Caddies have been trained and instructed to undertake this task in the past. Since the advent of the pull cart and the golf car, divot replacement has been neglected.

Divot replacement is of doubtful value during dry, hot, windy weather. The grass in the replaced divot withers and then dies. Replacement may be helpful in the spring and fall when the weather is favorable for the pieces of turf to develop roots and re-unite with the soil below. Even then most of the recovery may come from natural causes.

Good grasses spread of their own accord, sometimes by underground rhizomes or by surface runners, depending upon the kinds of grass in the turf. In this way small areas are covered rather quickly provided water and fertilizer are plenti-



Spot just ahead of stake was a deep divot. It was filled with soil containing Pennlawn fescue and poa trivialis seed seven to ten days before photo was taken.

ful. A temporary cover is the only thing needed while nature is doing its work.

Waste of Time

Where tees and fairways are watered and fertilized divot replacement may be a waste of time. Many clubs have found that out. They help nature provide grass by filling the divots with soil containing grass seed. This is done once weekly, usually on Monday.

The type of soil and the kind of grass seed are the secret of quick cover.

The soil must contain enough organic matter, usually peat, to provide ample water holding capacity. There must be a continuous supply of moisture to insure germination of seed and growth of the young seedling grass. One-third of peat by volume is not too much.

Poor Soil Mixture

Too little organic matter may be a reason for the difficulty in obtaining a stand of grass from seed on some of the new soil mixtures, such as 85 per cent sand, 7½ per cent clay and 7½ per cent peat, by volume. On this kind of soil it is next to impossible to keep the immediate surface continuously moist while the grass seed is germinating, and young seedlings commence growth.

On a dry windy day, seedling grass may wither and die in half an hour, or less. This is caused by a rapid loss of surface moisture due to the wind. The soil below may be moist. That does not help young grass because roots have not yet penetrated the subsoil.

Rye Becomes Unightly

Until recently, domestic rye grass was the seed mostly used. In the north a little bent grass seed has been added. Rye grass germinates quickly and grows so fast that every divot is unightly because the grass becomes longer than the surrounding turf.

There is a better combination for use in the north and in the south. *Poa Trivialis* and fine leaf fescue (preferably Pennlawn fescue) germinate almost as quickly as rye grass. They grow at a slower rate so divots are much more presentable. Supts usually use twice as much fescue as *poa trivialis* because of the difference in the size of the seed.

On Bermuda grass fairways in the far south this combination, or *poa trivialis*

Illinois Supt. Says Etiquette Should Be Taught Via TV

In a recent letter to Warren Cantrell, PGA president, John C. Ebel, supt. at the Biltmore CC in Barrington, Ill., suggested that with so many new golfers coming into the field, a minute or two of occasional TV golf show time should be devoted to educating them. In fact, said Ebel, it wouldn't be a bad idea if such big events as the Masters, Open, PGA Championship, etc. were interrupted, if only for 60 seconds, to demonstrate a point in golf etiquette.

Ebel further suggested that if fellows like Arnie Palmer, Jack Nicklaus and Gary Player were to ask TV watchers to replace their divots, not scuff up the greens and rake traps after playing out of them, the response would be amazing. "Arnie's Army" alone would replace acres of sod during a tournament if Palmer were to ask them to do so, Ebel added.

The Illinois supt. feels that his suggestion is especially timely because so many youngsters are taking up golf. "Most of them," he says, "would be willing to cooperate in conserving our courses, but nobody is setting much of an example for them."

alone, gives excellent results for use during the winter season. This holds for Bermuda grass fairways in the belt from Washington to Kansas City whenever divot repair is desirable. In the north, on watered fairways of cool season grasses, it is wise to include a small amount of seaside bent, especially where bentgrass is in the turf.

Recommends Equal Parts

A good soil mix is equal parts of sand, soil and peat. Some mix seed with the soil beforehand, others have the workmen add seed as needed. The men walk down the tee, or fairway, carrying a pail of soil. They drop enough soil to fill the divot and firms it in place with his foot. As a rule seedlings are visible for week-end play when divots are filled on Monday.