

# Yorktown\*

## Turf-Type Perennial Ryegrass

\*Protection applied for under the U.S. Plant Variety Protection Act.

**YOUR LOCAL AREA REPRESENTATIVES:**

Mr. Charles Johnson  
P. O. Box 342  
Centreville, Md. 21617  
Tel: (301) 758-0072

Mr. Joseph Yudin  
3104 Shelburne Road  
Baltimore, Md. 21208  
Tel: (301) 764-1279



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## The Lawn Institute Says New Grasses Do Not Require Heavy Fertilization

Dr. Robert W. Schery of The Lawn Institute, Marysville, Ohio, writes that, contrary to what is sometimes thought, topflight lawn bluegrasses are not really an exceptionally "hungry" lot. It is true, says Dr. Schery, that Merion Kentucky Bluegrass, which spearheaded the breakthrough into fine turf, does require several pounds of nitrogen annually for each thousand square feet of turf. Most of the other new bluegrasses, however, are more modest in their requirements.

The Lawn Institute, because of tight fertilizer supplies, cut almost in half their customary turf feeding schedule, and so far has seen little loss of quality in the new bluegrasses. On a reasonably good soil, Dr. Schery states, many of the new bluegrasses could endure a total lack of fertilization, although thinness and weeds could eventually become problems.

Not many of the new cultivars have been with us long enough to determine their exact fertilizer requirements. A few, like Baron and Fylking, however, have been on the market and have been widely accepted for some time, and both are reputed not to require excessive feeding. Baron, says Dr. Schery, is especially versatile and provides good turf even under low maintenance.

One of the things new bluegrasses are chosen for is a dark green color. Though common grass needs a frequent feeding to maintain a dark color, the new selections as Nugget, Glade, and Pennstar, and of such "man-made" cultivars as Sodco, from Purdue, or the Rutgers hybrids, disguises a mild nitrogen deficiency.

Fine fescues, recommended with bluegrass in mixtures, are even more modest in their fertilizer requirements, according to Dr. Schery. Jamestown may have the darkest hue, and Highlight, Koket, and Ruby boast a good color. The same seems to be true of most of the new "turf-type" perennial ryegrasses, which require no more fertilization than bluegrass.

Bluegrass, says Dr. Schery, may be hungrier for fertilizer when "instant" or soluble nitrogen is used. This colors the grass within days, but the effect wears off quickly. Gradual-release material will give an effect that is less intense but longer lasting. Any bluegrass, Dr. Schery concludes, will give a good account of itself if fed with a good lawn fertilizer once or twice a year.

*Charles Johnson  
Lofts Pedigree Seed  
from April issue of "Seed Trade News"*



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