

STOP 7

Ken Payne

Merion Management Study - Investigation of optimum management practices to minimize thatch and disease incidence in long-term maintenance. Factors under consideration are cutting height, clipping return or removal, mechanical thatch removal, and six rates of nitrogen application in all combinations. This is a six-year study.

Thatch Problems and Control - Thatch is defined as a tightly intermingled layer of living and dead stems, leaves, and roots of grasses which develop between the layer of green vegetation and the soil surface. This is an increasing problem on turf maintained at higher fertility levels. The cause of thatch is not well understood but seems to be related to high fertilization and return of clippings. Several have been developed for the mechanical removal of thatch.

BOARD WAGONS

STOP 8

Jim Beard

Shade Turf Ecology Studies - 18 grasses and mixtures under extremely heavy natural shade (5% of incident light). This study was initiated in 1961 to investigate the relative degree and the mechanisms of shade adaptation. Disease and not light competition has been the major factor influencing shade adaptation.

The Kentucky bluegrasses, Merion and Common, are 98% killed by powdery mildew. Red fescue was severely thinned by Helminthosporium sativum in the summer of 1962 but recovered remarkably in the spring of 1963. However, H. sativum infection and thinning started again on the third week of June, 1963.

Through June 12, 1963, roughstalk bluegrass (Poa trivialis) has exhibited the best adaptation to shade conditions. In the third week of June, 1963, considerable thinning of the roughstalk bluegrass occurred. A tentative cause is Ophiobolus patch.