

## SELECTION AND BREEDING OF SUPERIOR BENTGRASSES

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During 1987 nearly 1000 grass selections were made from old turf stands in Northeastern and North Central United States. Among this group were about 325 bentgrasses -- the majority being colonials. Many of these selections were from old cemeteries, some over 200 years old.

Trial evaluations continue with 32 advanced generation creeping and velvet bentgrasses for putting green use. Two creeping bentgrasses are being increased in Oregon for potential release. "Providence" is the designated name for one of them and is already in trial at a few national locations. An improved, dark green velvet bentgrass is also being evaluated and increased.

There are nearly 100 colonial bentgrass trials under observation with several of these showing promise as 'improved' selections.

A study of grass mixtures for fairway purposes is continuing. These are being maintained with and without fungicide treatment. The automatic rain shelter constructed in 1986 was utilized during the 1987 season. Cup cutter plugs have been taken from field plots and established within the shelter. There are now 150 selections under drought stress evaluation.