SELECTION AND BREEDING OF SUPERIOR BENTGRASSES

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The USGA research support continues to be utilized primarily for assistance in our grass improvement (breeding) program. About 300 recently collected bentgrasses and 250 fine fescues were vegetatively increased during 1988 for 1989 seed production. Over 100 of our developmental bentgrasses are under evaluation for putting green or fairway useage. One superior creeping bentgrass, developed through polycrossing, has been selected for commercial release during 1988. Several experimental colonial and velvet bentgrasses appear to be superior to available varieties. A major study involves water use or moisture stress tolerance of our collection.