

RELEASE TO ALL LOCAL TURF PERIODICALS
Issued by USGA Green Section
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The Poa annua problem has reared it's ugly head again as evidenced by many letters to this office. Our experience at Beltsville and our observations on many golf courses in this area, indicate that bermudagrass offers one of the solutions to the Poa annua problem. These factors are important:

1. U-3 bermudagrass is the best strain we know to date because it is fine textured, it has been winter-hardy at State College, Pa., since 1940, it is easily established by sprigging (there is no seed of U-3), it grows rapidly in hot muggy weather, it resists traffic wear, it resists weed invasion, it can be cut closely without injury, and, when it goes dormant in the fall, Poa annua will invade it to provide excellent winter and spring turf. When Poa annua disappears in hot weather, the bermudagrass rapidly takes over to provide continuously satisfactory playing turf.

2. June is an excellent time to sprig U-3 bermudagrass into failing Poa annua turf. Some moisture must be supplied until the bermuda starts to spread.

3. The bermuda sprigs can be planted (1) in Aerifier holes on 2-foot centers (closer if more rapid coverage is desired) (2) by opening the turf with a disc grass drill and inserting the sprigs into the slits after which the row should be packed down with tractor or truck wheels to firm the soil, (3) by removing a 2-inch strip of sod at 2-foot intervals and inserting a 2-inch strip of bermuda sod and packing it with truck wheels, or (4) by cutting bermuda sod into 2-inch blocks and inserting them into the turf on 2-foot centers (or closer depending on supply of planting material, time, labor supply, and desire for rapid coverage).

We do not intend to imply that U-3 bermudagrass will be uniformly successful. We urge those who regularly lose their Poa annua turf to test it on a trial basis on a small scale.

Two commercial grass nurseries are growing U-3 bermudagrass; William Glover, Fairfax Golf Club, Fairfax, Va., and Link's Nursery, Clayton 5, Mo. If they are unable to supply material, the Green Section will ship limited quantities to Greenkeeping Superintendents' Associations for distribution and trial.

We do not share the fear with many superintendents that U-3 bermudagrass will spread and ruin the putting greens. At Beltsville we have planted U-3 bermuda next to all our bentgrasses maintained as putting turf. Also, we have introduced the better bentgrasses into U-3 bermuda turf. In some respects the combinations are desirable. Remember that U-3 bermuda under close mowing, is as fine-bladed as most bents and can scarcely be distinguished from them.

Remember also, that in Oklahoma, Texas, California, and in other southern states, superintendents are successful in maintaining excellent bent greens completely surrounded by bermudagrasses which, in many respects, are far less desirable than U-3 bermuda.

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PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

"Whats New in Crops and Soils"
American Society of Agronomy
2702 Monroe Street
Madison, Wisconsin

"Control of Noxious Perennial Grasses with the Trichloroacetates"
by G. L. McCall and J. W. Zahnley
Kansas Agr. Exp. Station Cir 255
Manhattan, Kansas

"The Use of 2,4-D for Killing Weeds in Illinois"
by Fulleman, McKibben, Slife & Scott
U. of Illinois Agr. College
Agr. Exp. Station, Urbana, Illinois

"Timely Turf Topics" - "USGA Journal"
Soil and Turf Relationships
by Dr. Fred Grau and R. P. Humbert

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Out of the 20 million tons of fertilizer that will be supplied to farms this year, more will "go to grass" than ever before. Grass is our most important plant crop in America, for food. Grass arrives on our dinner table as beef, pork, mutton, butter, poultry, eggs, butter, and milk.

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While one of our members was marshaling at the recent National Open at Medinah, one of the contestants noting the marshall was repairing the ball divot, said, "what are you trying to do, improve on these already perfect greens?" Bouquets to Ray Davis for his fine job in preparing the course for this National event.

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NEW PRODUCTS - "Take Hold" (10-52-17)
A new all-soluable plant food.

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CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

- July 11 - Monthly Association meeting
La Grange Country Club
La Grange, Illinois
- July 16 - Playground Equipment Demonstration - Gleason Municipal Course
33rd & Harrison - Gary, Indiana
- July 18 - Michiana Association Meeting
Gleason Municipal Course
Gary, Indiana
- August ?? Midwest Association Picnic
Kankakee, Illinois
- August 22-26 25th National Shade Tree Conference - Lord Baltimore Hotel - Baltimore, Maryland
- Sept. 13 Woodhill Golf Tournament
Wayzata, Minnesota