

RELEASE TO ALL LOCAL TURF PERIODICALS  
Issued by USGA Green Section  
Fred V. Grau, Director  
Plant Industry Station  
Beltsville, Maryland

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.

\* \* \* \* \*

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

\* \* \* \* \*

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.

\* \* \* \* \*

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.

\* \* \* \* \*

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

\* \* \* \* \*

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



CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS (cont'd).

October 3-4.

National GSA Golf Tournament  
Firestone Golf Club  
Akron, Ohio

\* \* \* \* \*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

May 10

Dear Mr. Johnson:

For your information, and the information of those who might be interested, the University of Illinois is at the present time constructing a new 18 hole golf course adjacent to the University Airport southwest of the University itself. This is about 3 to 4 miles from the city and apparently there is plenty of room to expand, if necessary. I am not enough of a golf player to be able to give any opinion as to the hazards and the playability of the course, but I assume it will be a good one. From the amount of dirt that is being piled up and pushed around, it looks as though they were making several man-sized mountains of the flat prairie landscape. One of the golf course construction companies is in charge of the project, and we do not have much information on the details of the construction.

We regret that we did not have more time to talk to you at the Midwest Regional Turf Conference. We enjoyed the short time that we spent at the conference listening to Doctor Grau, Mr. Lathrope, Dr. Noer, and others talk about turf and turf experiments. Whenever I attend meetings, I realize more and more the importance of turf research as well as other subject matter.

Very truly yours,  
R. F. Fulleman, Associate Prof. Agriculture Experiment Station  
Urbana, Illinois

June 25

Dear Norm:

The success of the 49th Open Championship can in no small measure be attributed to the splendid support we received from your organization.

The work of your member superintendents at each green was highly complimented, not only by the officials of the United States Golf Association, but by the contestants.

We hope that you all enjoyed this great event and wish to sincerely thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

Cordially,  
MEDINAH COUNTRY CLUB  
E. Jack Barns, Chairman  
Lowell D. Rutherford, Co-chairman  
49th Open, USGA Tournament Committee

June 30

Dear Norm:

Please excuse the delay in my not thanking you sooner for the wonderful job you and your association of greenkeepers did on our No. 3 Course during the playing of the 49th Open Championship of the United States Golf Association.

I wish that you would convey to all

(cont. next column)

of your member greenkeepers who were so kind to offer their services during the Open, our sincere appreciation for their fine work.

With kindest personal regards.

Sincerely,

MEDINAH COUNTRY CLUB

John Beris Skala, Chr. Buildings & Grounds Committee

May 26

Dear Norman:

Enclosed please find material which may be of interest to you for use in your columns. If the statements conflict in any way with the findings in your area or at your experiment station, please discard the material. Use it only if you believe that it will find favor with the members of your association. Among some it will be highly controversial - others will gladly try it to test its value. Please use your own good judgment.

Sincerely,

Yours for better Turf

Fred V. Grau

USGA Greens Section

F-O-R S-A-L-E

Subject: Used Hose for Sale  
Age: Purchased in 1942  
Use: Little or none  
Make: Double Braided Electric  
Size: 1-inch  
Price: Reasonable - make offer  
Quantity: 5,000 feet, more or less  
Contact: Andrew C. Dunn  
159 Oak Ridge  
Hillside, Illinois  
Phone: - Hillside 3260

\* \* \* \* \*

Make the most of yourself, for that is all there is of you.

-- Emerson

\* \* \* \* \*

Too many greenkeepers are too busy to take off a few hours now and then to visit with each other. Queer commodity, these humans, everybody takes time off to see a fellow after he is dead. Morbidity - what fun, the guy who is laid out? The old adage - "anticipation is greater than realization" is BALOGNE.

-- Art Anderson - Twin City Scribe

\* \* \* \* \*

Ray Gerber, NGA Educational Chairman, is on the lookout for some top-drawer speakers for the Boston Conference this winter. If you have any subject matter that you consider important for use on a national program - let Ray know about it.

\* \* \* \* \*

EDITORIAL STAFF

Editor - - - Norman C. Johnson  
Associate Editors: Robert Williams, John R. Coghill, Ray H. Gerber, Herb Graffis, Dr. O. J. Noer, Dr. Fred V. Grau.