

THE ZOYSIAS AS TURF GRASSES IN THE MIDWEST

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In a constant effort to develop superior grasses for turf production, those in turf research are very interested in selections of Zoysia grasses. Since there has been considerable publicity on the new grasses, this memo attempts to summarize our present information.

Recently several selections of zoysias have been tested in our Midwest Regional Turf Foundation experimental plots, and the U. S. G. A. Green Section has been especially interested in a zoysia breeding program. So far Meyer (Z-52) Zoysia (a fine-leaved, vigorous selection of common Zoysia japonica) has been one of the better selections. Also Z-73, a seedling selection from Meyer Zoysia, is being tried experimentally. Zoysia matrella, which has been used on several tees in Louisville, has a fine texture but tended to winter-kill, especially in 1951-52. Limited seed of the common Zoysia japonica is imported from the Orient. There have been only experimental quantities of seed of Meyer or other selections harvested, but seed yields have been good. In addition to a lack of seed, vegetative material is very limited in quantity.

Disadvantages of Meyer (Z-52) Zoysia

- (1) It is slow growing, especially in competition.
- (2) Both seed and vegetative planting material are scarce or unavailable.
- (3) Zoysia seed germinates slowly (like bluegrass) and seedlings grow slowly. (like Merion bluegrass).
- (4) Turf may have some invasion of annual winter weeds as chickweed.
- (5) Rhizomes may be a nuisance around flowerbeds.
- (6) Probably will not tolerate cool, shady areas in Midwest.
- (7) Turns brown gradually in fall.
- (8) Greens up slowly in spring.
- (9) There is a need for mechanical ways of placing and establishing zoysia plugs, sprigs or seedlings into existing turf.

Advantage of Meyer (Z-52) Zoysia

- (1) Grows well during season of most golf use.
- (2) Forms a dense cushion mat.
- (3) Can be cut closely.
- (4) Runners grow under and through other vegetation.
- (5) Is very drought tolerant, but its "wet-feet" ability is questionable.
- (6) Responds to heavy spring and summer nitrogen feeding.
- (7) Has wintered practically as well without as with mulch.
- (8) May be planted, particularly as plugs, until late summer.
- (9) Is better than U-3 for fall and late spring color.
- (10) Turf when brown is still very dense and playable.
- (11) Is very tolerant to chemicals, so weedy grasses can be treated.

Al Johnson at Indian Hill has been busy supervising the erection of a building to cover two of his curling rinks. The building is 40 feet by 150 feet.

BULL SHEET CIRCULATION INCREASES

Pres. Davis has given THE BULL SHEET editor permission to increase the circulation by sending the Sheet to our friends in Wisconsin. This means that every Superintendent in Wisconsin will be entitled to receive the publication monthly. There are about 125 golf courses in Wisconsin. This step is made possible by the good financial condition of our paper. It is expected that this move will be made with the current issue, providing we have time to obtain correct mailing list on rather short notice. We sincerely hope the Wisconsin Superintendents will enjoy reading our publication.

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Ray Gerber, the sage of the West side recalled the days of the making of Maple Sirup. The Mole suggested he wanted to plant some Maple Trees and make some maple sugar in the near future. Gerber leaned back in his easy chair.

"I don't believe you have the faintest idea of the making of Maple Sirup or of Maple Sugar," says Gerber, "or of the work involved. When I was a kid we had to collect the sap from the trees in the pasture. Depending on the season, a BIG tree might give a gallon of sap a day, and it took 50 gallons of sap to make 1 gallon of good syrup. When I say depending on the weather, the kind of a day that made the sap really flow was a cold night followed by a warm day. With this kind of a day a real good large tree might give off a bucket of sap a day. Mother had a big kettle on the back of the kitchen stove and she evaporated the sap in this kettle during the sugar season. They might have quicker ways of making sirup and sugar now but they never made better syrup than we made at home. Young Fellow, if you planted trees now and waited till they were big enough to tap for sap, you would not be able to toddle along to collect it".

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Grass plants possess an astonishingly large root system. It has been estimated that a single rye plant may develop, in one season, a total root length of 387 miles and an additional 6603 miles of root hairs! H. J. Dittmer, in his "A Comparative Study of the Subterranean Members of Three Field Grasses," states that in one cubic inch of soil Kentucky blue grass may develop 4000 lineal feet of root growth! Competent authorities have also said that for every pound of above-ground dry matter produced by grass crops, 200 to 500 or more pounds of water are required by the plants, not including that lost through runoff, drainage and evaporation.

The season of the year is approaching when wind, ice and snow can do much damage to trees. Now is the time to look your trees over and help strengthen any weak crotches with cabling and bracing. Not all branch breakage can be prevented by cabling, and bracing, but properly installed cables do give the branches extra strength to resist the strains and stresses imposed by storms, and may add years of useful life to the tree.

Shade Tree Digest

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Mr. Eckhouse, for many years the Chairman of the Grounds at Ravisloe C. C. with us at our annual tournament there in October. He has been member at Ravisloe for 27 years and planted 6400 trees while the chairman of the committee.