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FOR SALE: 2 Roseman Highway Challenger reel type, 5 gang mowers, 4 blade, 10" reels. Purchased new 1964. Used one season. Best offer. For details and inspection contact W. J. Mikonis, Forest Preserve District of DuPage County, 881 West St. Charles Road, Lombard, Illinois 629-5700.

THAT FAIRWAY TURF COVER

By D. W. Daniels

(Talk presented before Midwest G.C.S.A. meeting at Medinah, Illinois, December 6, 1966)

After a short time of eighteen years working with turf, I am convinced that turf managers should try to grow perennial, rejuvenating grasses. This means those that have maximum tolerance to weather, wear and management conditions.

Although some grasses may perform admirably for a short period or under one set of conditions—hot, humid weather—the fairways in the Greater Chicago area must not only produce a green turf cover much of the year, but also must withstand heavy use and wide variation in weather conditions. So, we rule out bermuda, we limit Zoysia, and have left bluegrasses, fescues and bentgrasses. We rule out ryegrass because of its fast growth rate, large amount of clippings and disease susceptibility. We find practically no fescue remaining, particularly where there is fertilizer, irrigation and close mowing. This then leave bluegrass and bentgrass.

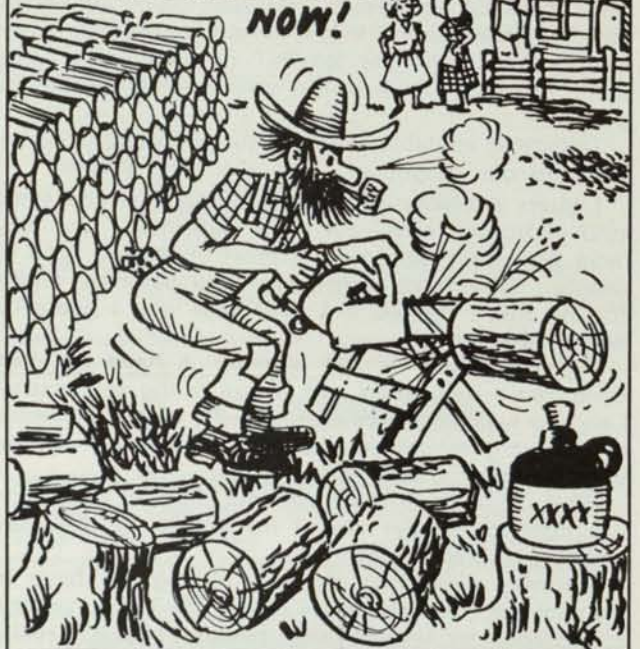
The bluegrass varieties of yesteryear were not noted for tolerance of close mowing and we still need improved bluegrass varieties, which will tolerate closer mowing, yet produce vigorous rhizomes. Meanwhile, good management, irrigation, weed control, plu fungicides to reduce disease, can permit the closer mowing of bluegrass.

What about bents? Over the years much seed has been planted and usually it germinates. Since bent establishes, from seed to mature plant—with crown and nodes, quite slowly, much of the bentgrass planted never reaches maturity. Then, diseases, such as dollarspot and snow mold, may completely wipe out established stand. Bentgrass has close mowing tolerance, but more disease problems, more irrigation demand.

Some, then—smilingly will say—*Poa annua* is not so bad, it reseeds itself. If it fails, it does come back. It will tolerate close mowing; it does knit after damage. However, in my view after working with turf for eighteen year, I see nothing contributing to long term success in fine turf management by using *Poa annua* as a permanent crop. With this in mind my suggestion continues to be that *Poa annua* be controlled, that the desired grasses be favored. It is a difficult task, it is a big challenge.

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