Q. Is it good to cut these greens when dew is on the grass? Should Bermuda be watered during the summer months, and also your opinion of sowing rye grass with Bermuda during September and playing the greens all the year around? Does this rye grass hurt the Bermuda, or is it a good thing for the Bermuda?—A. S. H.

A. It does not do any harm to mow greens when the dew is on the grass, provided there is not a tall growth and the cuttings are not left on the greens. Wads of wet cuttings left on the turf often smother out patches of the grass. With this precaution we see no reason why you should not cut your greens as early as you care to do so. Many greenkeepers make a practice of whipping the dew off the greens with bamboo poles just before cutting. This gets rid of the surplus moisture, breaks up worm casts and gets rid of leaves and trash which accumulate on the greens during the night.

Yes, Bermuda should be watered through the summer months if you wish it to produce a close, thick turf. Bermuda will thrive in hot weather better than will most other grasses except crab-grass, but it requires water like any other plant. As it does not grow except in the summer, if it does not get watered it will have a hard time getting along.

A good thick Bermuda turf will withstand a lot of trampling during the winter, although there is no new growth taking place. But it is straw-colored and not pleasing in appearance.

It has been the practice for several years in the gulf states to sow some quick growing grass in September on the old Bermuda sod in order to have a green turf during the winter. Rye grass is often used for this purpose and so is redtop and sometimes bent seed. The recently introduced poa bulbosa is being tried. If it produces the right kind of a putting surface it will have the advantage over the other sorts in that it will not have to be replanted each fall. So far its sponsors are only recommending it for use with Bermuda on fairways.

None of these grasses hurts the Bermuda, as the Bermuda is dormant during the winter while they are active and they all die down in the early summer when the Bermuda starts growing.

Creeping bent can be grown successfully at Winston-Salem and in our opinion it is superior to Bermuda as a putting green grass.

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