



Among those attending tea rally given for sponsors of the one day National Handicap golf tournament sponsored by the British War Relief Society, Inc., were: (L. to R.) Mrs. Sidney C. Borg, H. Boardman Spalding, Mrs. Charles F. Robbins, Robert T. Jones, Jr., Mrs. William Armour and Alden S. Blodgett. The tournament, which will be held on June 14 at leading golf clubs in the U. S., will provide funds for the relief and rehabilitation of British civilian air raid victims.

An entrance fee of \$2.00 will entitle each golfer at every participating club to play 18 holes of golf, and to receive one golf ball in a specially wrapped box on which the British War Relief emblem will be imprinted, as well as a greens marker, which will carry the Society's emblem. Prize will also be awarded for the low net score at every club competing.

these. By repeating the process before the new selection fully matured I hoped a dwarf plant would eventually develop. While I did not accomplish much in this way, I did learn that I was dealing with different and distinct strains of bermuda. For simplicity's sake they will be referred to as A, B, C, D and E. The first three resembled common bermuda, but the other two were very different and possessed desirable qualities for putting green use. A brief description of each follows.

#### Strains Differ in Color

Strains A and B were both rather coarse textured. They differed principally in color. A varied from a light to a dark brownish green, whereas B shaded from a light to a bluish green. When allowed to develop both possessed coarse long-jointed stems. Under close mowing and heavy fertilization to get density these undesirable features were reduced. But even with improved density, there was still a noticeable surface nap and grass did not develop a compact turf.

When fully developed strain C is fine textured and of good density, especially as compared with ordinary native bermuda. Generally speaking, its root system is meager and poor; furthermore, this selection is highly sensitive to low temperature and other unfavorable conditions.

Strains D and E are newer ones. D appears to be a mutation resulting from our experiments. It resembles B in color—that is, it varies from light to dark bluish green. Where there is a nitrogen deficiency it has a noticeably lighter blue cast than B. This strain is lighter textured, denser and more compact, and has a deeper and better root system than A,

B or C. No doubt its superior root system is responsible for its ability to withstand the effects of abnormal treatment, as well as unfavorable climatic changes. The leaves of this strain do not lose chlorophyll from the effect of frost like other bermuda. Its aggressiveness gives it a longer playing season where this is desired. It also shows less kill due to incorporating rye grass with it in the winter for play then.

Strain E appears to be a cross between C and D, possibly through a process of inter-breeding. It possesses the desirable qualities of both. Although this strain is not quite so aggressive as strain D, it is exceedingly fine textured with a very strong good root system. Top growth is firm, dense and compact. Strain E holds its color exceptionally well; it is less sensitive to cold and other unfavorable physiological conditions than any of the strains. When O. J. Noer visited our course in January he expressed the opinion that this strain appeared to possess more of the characteristics of bent grass than any other bermuda he had seen.

#### Seed Attempts Not Successful

Our experiments so far have been confined primarily to vegetative propagation with stolons. But we have attempted (not by scientific methods) to produce these grasses from seed. Up to now attempts have not been successful.

Strain D is not inclined to seed. Seed bearing stalks appear very sparingly. Although Strain E produces ample seed, they appear to be sterile.

The experiment of reproduction of both strains from seeds is still in its infancy. Should further experiments in production