

South Tests New Grasses for Tees, Greens

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DURING a recent visit to Louisville, I was impressed with some of the tees at the Municipal Course, and at Audubon CC. Turf consisted of zoysia. It was dense and singularly free of crab grass and other weeds. The ball "teed" up well, and the surface was firm for play.

Audubon now has 15 such tees and will change the others at the earliest opportunity. The Park Department think zoysia will solve the turf problem on their heavily played tees. So far it has performed surprisingly well. The first tees were sodded several years ago.

The possibilities of zoysia as a grass for tees have been mentioned and advised for some time. The narrow leaf strain was suggested as the most promising type for this purpose. Tees on these two Louisville courses demonstrate the wisdom of the suggestion. Based on experience there, zoysia offers great possibilities in regions from Louisville south. Like Bermuda, zoysia needs, and grows best during, warm weather.

The original zoysia plantings were made by C. O. Bohne, while he was in the employ of the Park Department. Planting



Shaw examines a patch of especially promising Bermuda.

stock for the nursery was furnished from the Arlington Garden of the Green Section, USGA, by Dr. John Monteith, Jr.

Best results have been obtained by developing turf in the nursery first, and then using it to sod the tee. Alternate strips of sod are taken from the nursery. Afterwards the surface is leveled with top soil so zoysia in the undisturbed strips can spread and recover the nursery.

It is difficult to obtain coverage from broadcast plantings of stolons. In fact, it is hard to get stolons started. They are slow to take root. Possibly deeper covering is required than is needed for bent or Bermuda.

While zoysia offers great possibilities in the South it is not likely to prove satisfactory much north of Louisville. Even though it may withstand the rigors of winter it doesn't start to grow until late spring or early summer. By that time wear from play may weaken the grass so it does not perform up to expectations even during summer.

In the South clubs should start slowly. The best and safest plan is to grow enough in a nursery for one tee. The trial tee should be played at least two seasons before others are changed, and even then the wise procedure is to make haste slowly.

That there are differences in Bermuda is not a new discovery. The so-called Atlanta strain, African Bermuda, St. Lucie, Blue Stem, etc., attest to that fact. But the possibilities of selecting and developing has not been fully appreciated. White at Myrtle Beach, Hall at Savannah, and possibly others have made a start. They have done enough to justify a more



This "patch-quilt" effect is due to different distinctive strains of Bermuda grass.

serious effort to find and develop better strains for use on greens. This offers great possibilities, and may be the answer to better summer greens in the South, rather than trying to grow bent grasses.

With age, greens developed from Atlanta strain of Bermuda seed show the same patch-quilt appearance as mixed bent greens in the North. The differences exist, but are less marked. Some strains are leafy and develop denser turf, others are coarse and stemmy.

Differences were very striking on some of the greens in the Miami district of courses not being maintained this summer. Soon after mowing stopped, differences became more striking. Some strains seeded profusely. They were coarse and stubby. Others did not produce seed heads. They stayed vegetative. Grass was dense and fine textured. Leafiness was more pronounced and turf resembled northern bent.

Eventually somebody will awaken to the possibility of Bermuda. A serious effort will be made to select, test, and develop desirable strains for greens. In the beginning propagation will be by vegetative means. It will start by taking a small plug from the center of a promising patch. This will be torn apart and planted in a row on an area which is absolutely free of Bermuda. Then stolons from the row will be used to plant a small plot which will be kept cut to putting green length.

To resist invasion by native Bermuda the finer leaved type finally developed will make a very dense and tight turf. Inability to do that under close cutting was the reason why African Bermuda failed as a putting green grass.

Brisk Wartime Program at Fort Wayne (Ind.) CC

FORT WAYNE (Ind.) CC has one of the finest wartime programs of any club in the country, Sec.-Mgr. Carl J. Suedhoff claims and has evidence to substantiate his statement.

Among club events that recently got prominent publicity in Fort Wayne newspapers was a bridge party given by 75 of the club's women, proceeds of which were used for paying for a telephone conversation between a Ft. Wayne boy now in the naval hospital at Pearl Harbor, his mother at Fort Wayne, and his sister at Norfolk, Va.

Another activity at the club is that of the junior girl golfers at the club who hold bridge parties and other events to



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