

During the past several years the Green Section has collected bentgrass selections from all over the country and has tested them at Beltsville under a system of no irrigation, using no fungicides or insecticides and mowing them at ¼-inch and ½-inch. Out of more than 150 strains only 3 or 4 have survived and prospered sufficiently to warrant further work with them. One comes from Ohio, one comes from Washington, D. C., one comes from Atlantic City, and one comes from Virginia. Several selections from Oklahoma show promise. This is the most brutal treatment that can be accorded bentgrasses, which popularly are supposed to require a great deal of attention. These have had the minimum of care and have thrived in spite of it.

There was a great deal of interest in the zoysia breeding and testing project which is being developed between the USGA Green Section and the Division of Forage Crops and Diseases, Bureau of Plant Industry. Hundreds of new strains of zoysia have been developed through breeding. Many new strains are being tested under various heights of mowing, alone and in combination with various cool-season grasses. In the trials thus far the top performing cool-season grasses are B-27 bluegrass, Alta fescue, and Penn State Chewings fescue.

It was interesting to note that it was difficult to get the crowd away from a demonstration of cutting plugs from Z-52 turf with specially designed plug-cutters fitted to the F. G. Aerifier. It appears that this may be a rapid, low-cost method of taking plugs from a nursery bed and inserting them into fairways in play without interfering in any way with the play.

Most of the greenkeepers were surprised to find that U-3 bermuda grass which invaded the bentgrasses maintained at putting green height did not materially affect putting quality or appearance.

Many of the visitors went home with 2-inch plugs of Z-52 zoysia in their pockets and a bag of U-3 bermuda grass under their arm. Since seed of B-27 bluegrass is practically non-existent at the present time, creeping grasses which can be planted vegetatively represent the greatest interest at the present time. It should be pointed out that most of the 1949 production of B-27 bluegrass is being used to plant additional acreage for seed production. Even though seed is not available at the present time steps are being taken to insure ample supplies in the future. A great deal of criticism was voiced because B-27 bluegrass looks so good and yet there is no seed. It must be understood that whenever anything superior is finally proven there always will

be a lag or gap between the demand and the available supply. It is inevitable and unavoidable.

Some of the work which was not shown to the group include a cooperative testing program of the new fescue strains developed by breeding and selection at the Pennsylvania Experiment Station. Another was the testing of some 50 strains of bermuda grass in bluegrass turf. Studies of nurse grasses and renovation trials made recently received little attention because the turf had not as yet matured. Also there were demonstrations of establishing turf from seed of different zoysiagrasses.

The Third Annual National Turf Field Day will be held on October 16 and 17, 1950. One day will be devoted to the inspection of local golf courses where new grasses and practices are being used under heavy play. One day will be devoted to inspection of the plots at the Beltsville Turf Gardens and discussions of the various points of interest. Another student get-together will be planned, probably for Sunday night, October 15.

### **Golf Writer Fred Proctor Dies**

Fred W. Proctor, for 40 years one of golf's most devoted workers, died November 28, in Chicago at the age of 74 following lengthy illness. A veteran Chicago golf writer, most of the more recent of his 40 years as a newspaper reporter were spent with the Chicago Herald-American from which he was pensioned in 1946. Fred Proctor's service to the game began when there were less than 500 golf courses in the country; today there are 5,000, with the number in the greater Chicago district increasing almost 10 fold during the period he so enthusiastically worked to generate interest in the game. He is survived by his widow, Louise, two sisters, two step-daughters and a stepson. Three of the Walsh brothers of golf fame, Tom, Frank and Marty, Fred Snite, Chick Evans and Frank Mate served as pallbearers.

### **Midwestern Shade Tree Conference**

The fifth annual meeting of the Midwestern Chapter of the National Shade Tree Conference will be held February 15-16-17, 1950, at the LaSalle Hotel, Chicago, Illinois. The two-and-a-half day meeting is open to all persons interested in trees, and it is anticipated that more than 300 members of the Conference and guests will attend. A short discussion period will follow the presentation of each paper, and additional opportunity for questions and discussion will be provided in the Plant Forum session. Problems of concern to arborists, particularly to those located in the midwestern region, will be discussed by able speakers.