

attractive without too much glamor and blowup attached to the basic part of turf management, let it be thoroughly understood by all just what should be done by both employer and employe to arrive at a satisfactory conclusion.

It is very important to strive for a smooth working machine which in the long run will inject much of that harmony and spirit of cooperation that is so necessary for successful and economical operation of our daily tasks.

We still have many turf problems to overcome in Florida but I believe the day is not too far away when some of these will be answered. A new turf experimental garden is now being established at the University of Florida under the supervision of Dr. Gene Nutter. With the sincere cooperation of golf course superintendents in Florida, I am sure that the turf research program will bear fruit that can be digested by all who have a healthy appetite for food of that nature. Dr. Nutter has been very active during the past year in surveying the various districts in the state for whatever problems require more intensive study and research. From these observations we will eventually have a better opportunity to obtain pertinent information as a guide to accomplish various projects with more accuracy and less worry.

District superintendents' associations within the state are becoming more active. We expect to get a short course under way at Gainesville, similar to the set-up at Purdue university. This will most certainly be of much value to all and will be a central meeting place to discuss our problems each year.

Tiffine (Tifton 127) Bermuda Is Developed at Tifton

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Golf course superintendents have continually searched for a good fine textured Bermuda grass. The establishment of experimental turf plots at the Georgia Coastal Plain Experiment Station in 1947 marked the first milestone for the selection, breeding, and testing of Bermuda grass types for turf purposes. During this time over 136 types of Bermuda grasses have been tested under both golf green and fairway management. By 1949 and 1950 it was evident that a hybrid Bermuda, Tiflawn (Tifton 57 Bermuda

grass) produced at the experiment station, was superior to common seeded Bermuda grass and several selections from golf courses in the Southeast. Tiflawn, however, still fell short of the exacting requirements of the golfers for a very fine textured Bermuda. In an effort, therefore, to produce a finer textured Bermuda while still retaining desirable qualities, Tiflawn, *Cynodon dactylon*, and several other selections of common Bermuda were hybridized with a very fine-leaved disease susceptible Bermuda from South Africa—*Cynodon transvaalensis*.

Eighty-nine hybrid plants, obtained from the crosses, were planted in the field for observation in 1949. Several of the plants appeared to be inferior turf types and were discarded. The most promising hybrids, however, were planted in the experimental turf plots. Such comparative ratings as disease resistance, sod density, fineness, playing quality, weed resistance, aggressiveness, etc. over the past two years have indicated that the hybrid plant carrying the number 127 is a superior turf type. This Bermuda produced by crossing Tiflawn with South African Bermuda grass has become known as Tifton 127 turf Bermuda—Tiffine. Since it does not produce viable seed, it must be propagated vegetatively.

Tiffine has a distinctive medium green color, is aggressive, disease resistant, not injured by overseeding with ryegrass, and is much finer in texture than Tiflawn, common seeded Bermuda, or most other types of Bermuda grass used on putting greens. Small quantities of sprigs are available to golf clubs on request and have been mailed to many clubs in the Southeast. Commercial sources are also available. Observations to date indicate that Tiffine is well adapted throughout the Southeast. It is being grown satisfactorily on new greens in the coastal area and as far north as the Ohio River Valley.

Although Tiffine is a great improvement over common Bermuda for putting greens, the Bermuda grass breeding work is being continued in the hope that even better Bermudas may be found.

I dispose of some of my trade-ins by exchanging them for lost balls which the caddies have found. These balls I either sell to used ball buyers or have them re-conditioned and sell them myself.

—Chick Faltus,
Lake Hills G&CC, St. John, Ind.