

shifted — it is simply a matter of interpretation.

Q. We have an experimental green at our course of Tiffine (127) Bermuda, which has done very well. We'd like to know what grass seed to use and what procedure of sowing to keep it green in the winter. We'd also like to know what grass you consider as the best of the Bermudas for greens. Could it be Uganda-grass? (Mo.)

A. We're pleased to hear of your success with Tiffine Bermuda. In general, this grass has been somewhat difficult to manage in producing a smooth, true putting surface. Please give us your management procedure so we may pass it on to others who have greens of this particular grass.

In your area, it may not be possible to keep any grass green through the winter without dye or paint. Cold weather can knock the color out of almost any grass. Usually, for keeping a Bermuda green in color during the winter, ryegrass is used. In some cases a chewing fescue could be added to the ryegrass. Fescue seems to maintain a very good color through the winter, particularly the first winter after it has been sown. Some use bentgrass, but this is difficult to establish and does not hold its color well in a cold winter. Others use bluegrass and redtop. These two can be tinged with brown in sharp frost and may not stay as green as you would like.

We wouldn't say Ugandagrass is the last word in grass for greens. In more southerly parts, Tifton 328 or Tifgreen Bermuda is being used rather extensively. Ugandagrass has been doing an excellent job in a number of areas further north where Tifgreen has not been tested widely. Points in favor of Ugandagrass are that it is as fine or finer than bent, it is virtually without grain when properly managed and the seed-heads, what few there are, stand straight up so that the mower cuts them off cleanly. It requires only a minimum of irrigation and holds excellent color when adequately fertilized. Tifgreen also has excellent color and, like Uganda, starts rapidly and covers quickly and produces a putting surface of medium texture somewhat like Tiffine, but a little bit finer. Both grasses are vigorous and highly disease resistant.

I'd first establish experimental areas in comparison with your present satisfactory Tiffine.

Q. For the last two years I have been Pres. of a Pa. country club and I have read every GOLFDOM article of yours, particularly when it refers to Merion bluegrass. I have had a Merion bluegrass lawn for the past two years. My grass has a disease not described in any literature I have seen on Merion bluegrass.

This disease started under some red gum trees last year and thinking it may have been caused by the trees. I did not take action until fall. The disease is white (possibly fungus) that appears on the grass leaf as a powder and re-

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sults in lack of color in the leaf in spots — the color being whitish-yellow although very much of a white. In September the disease seemed to increase. White powder would rise from the grass and be deposited on your shoes, the same as if it were lime. By October this disease had spread all over the yard and in the areas where it first appeared, the grass turned brown and seemed to disappear.

This disease apparently does not affect other grasses in the neighborhood since they do not have any white coating or color. I have tried two applications of Tersan with apparently no results. I hope you will be able to help me since I am rapidly losing a very fine Merion lawn. (Pa.)

A. From your very good description it seems as though the Merion was affected by powdery mildew. This, however, you should determine definitely. I suggest that you have your county agent send specimens of your grass to the Department of Botany, Dr. Couch, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pa. Ask for positive identification of the disease.

It would help if you would describe fertilizer and water treatments that your Merion lawn has received during the past two years. It would help, also, if you would describe your mowing practices: how often you mow, at what height and whether or not you remove clippings.

There are many fine Merion bluegrass lawns in your area that apparently are completely free of the trouble you describe. I cannot believe that the disease, or the trouble, is so serious as to cause the Merion to disappear. There must be contributing factors and your self analysis of your management practices will help to diagnose the trouble.

Q. Can you help me determine the reason for the lack of use of creeping bent stolons in the Southern California area? I have failed to come up with a satisfactory answer. Out here, everything seems to be Seaside seeded bent. (Calif.)

A. Seaside bent seed is convenient and it's cheap. Bentgrass stolons are somewhat more expensive and have not been made available to any degree in Southern California. Although they have been proven in research plots, they haven't been accepted in the general sense of the word. They entail considerable work in planting and in care. Another thing is that favorable climate permits Seaside to develop turf that is quite satisfactory under good management. Dry air and relatively uniform temperatures represent quite a different condition than in the Midwest, where only the sturdiest creeping bents can stand up under the rigorous Iowa climate.

As of now, with Penncross creeping bent seed available in quantity and at a reasonable price, many of the new courses in your area, and elsewhere over the country probably will have greens seeded to this superior creeping bent seed.