

609 West Lake Street, Peoria, Illinois

Grau's Answers

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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 if 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.