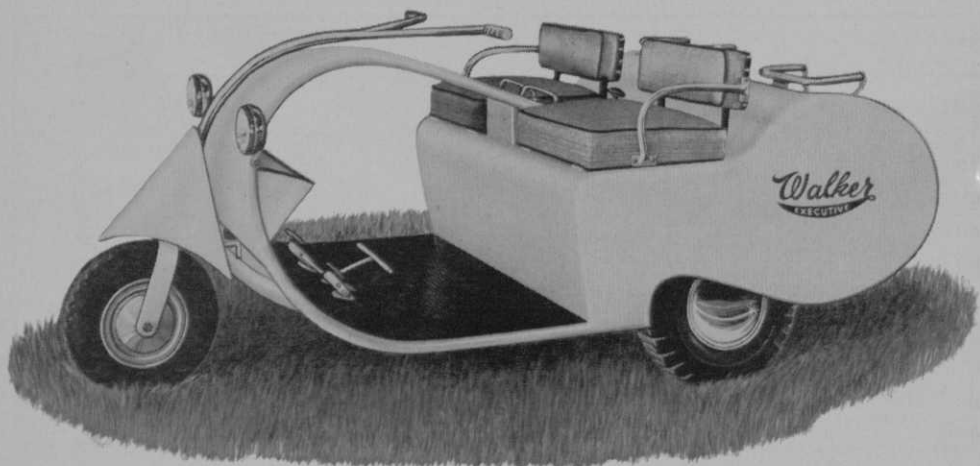


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6 or 8 times with an aerating machine to cultivate the soil and to punch it full of millions of holes. During this process incorporate whatever lime, phosphate and potash may be required according to the soil test. The soil test can be made in advance of stripping so that you can have all materials available when aerating is started. The various passes of the aerating machine will help work the materials into the seed-bed.

As a last item before sowing the seed, I would spread 20 lbs. to 1,000 sq. ft. of nitrogen fertilizer. This will provide adequate nitrogen for rapid establishment of the fescue and Merion and feed the turf for an entire season.

I would start immediately. Mid-August would have been even better. Merion needs warm soil to germinate quickly and to establish turf before cool weather sets in. Pennlawn fescue thrives under almost identically the same conditions.

You may expect to find some of the Washington bent coming back into the lawn. That which reappears can be discouraged by treating the patches with 2,4D. Bent is very sensitive to 2,4D and can be killed while fescue and Merion will not be injured. The height of cut should be about 1 in., no higher.

These grasses will require infinitely less maintenance than bent and probably need to be irrigated only two or three times in a season. One fertilization a year with a controlled release is all that you will need.

It is recommended that the clippings be re-

moved, especially when they are heavy enough to lie on top of the turf and become unsightly and a harbor for insects and diseases.

A Pair of Pests

Q. I have some patches of clover and also some patches of silver crabgrass on the fringe area of my greens. I would like to kill this grass. What do you think would be the best material to use. I want to replant these areas in bentgrass. (Kansas).

A. Clover largely can be eliminated through the use of nitrogen fertilizer. Nitrogen feeding on a good grass can choke out clover without the need for chemicals if soil conditions are good and management practices are favorable. Overwatering and starvation are sure ways to bring in clover and other unwanted growth.

In replanting these areas in bentgrass I suggest that you consider using Penncross creeping bentgrass seed. Penncross has been proved to be a highly desirable grass for putting greens with great vigor and sturdiness and ability to keep out unwanted growth. Be sure to fertilize generously in the seedbed before sowing the Penncross seed. One lb. of seed to 1,000 sq. ft. ordinarily is sufficient to produce an excellent stand of turf. Superior grasses adequately fertilized and intelligently managed are your first defense against weeds.

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