

ments a season would be my goal until real improvement has been noted.

Foxtail grass in the fairways indicates that the turf is not dense enough to keep it in check. How much slow-release nitrogen has been used? To what grasses were the fairways seeded? It can be stated that the right grasses, adequately fertilized, will drive out foxtail and most other weeds. Weed killers do not seem to be the answer to foxtail (an annual grass) at least until adequate fertilizer has been given a chance. More frequent mowing should be a big help.

Dirt Tee Compaction

Q: We have dirt tees at our course. After a few days of sunny weather they seem to dry out and pack very hard. It is very difficult to put a tee in them. We were wondering if you could tell us what is a good maintenance program for dirt tees. Are cork mats any good? (Vermont)

A: Cork mats could be one solution to your problem. Another may be door mats made of old tires, sunk flush with the soil surface. Still another is the incorporation of sand to provide a non-packing soil into which a peg tee can be inserted even when the soil is dry.

When all considerations are in, what is wrong with grass? Perhaps you do not have water available for tees. Some vigorous grasses (Merion bluegrass, for example) when well fertilized, will provide excellent tee turf in your area with very little irrigation. Maintenance costs may be little higher than that of artificial surfaces, but player satisfaction would be infinitely greater.

Switch to Zoysia

Q: We have a 9-hole course that is very hilly, with soil primarily North Georgia red clay. We have not had a program for planting and fertilizing and our fairways are pretty bad. We wonder if, with the course in poor condition and with complete remedial action scheduled for no sooner than next year, we should not experiment with Zoysia. Should we use Zoysia Japonica? (Georgia)

A: Zoysia Japonica (common name is Japanese lawngrass) has developed in the 60 odd years it has been in this country, evidence that it will grow and thrive on soils so poor that Bermudagrass gives up in favor of crabgrass and crowfoot (goosegrass.) The answer to your question about experimenting with Zoysia is an unqualified "Yes". You have nothing to lose — everything to gain.

Early summer is the best time to sow the seed. A rate of 20 lbs. to the acre should give you results. Do not expect rapid results as with ryegrass. Coverage may take two years to accomplish. Yes, fertilizer will be of great benefit. Prepare a seedbed by spiking so that play is not interrupted. Do not be concerned about weeds that crop up. Just keep them mowed.



At "Employees' Day" held at Shawnee Inn, Shawnee-on-Delaware, Pa., in July, three veteran employees were cited by Fred Waring (3rd from right). They were Harry Lock, water supply, 21 years; Clarence (Mike) Mosier, groundsman, 50 years; and Tom Cullen, country club mgr., 20 years. Gold pins were given to Shawnee employees who have been at the resort for three or more years. A special commemorative pin was given to Mrs. John Dimmick, whose husband served as Shawnee's supt. of grounds for 53 years before his death last May. The resort is observing its 50th anniversary.

Zoysia Source

Q: After reading your article about Zoysia grass for fairways (Golfdom, April, p. 52), we decided to get additional information from you. Where can we obtain it? Also, the price of it? What time of the year is it best to seed it? (Ill.)

A: Zoysia seed is advertised by Herbst Brothers Seedsmen, 678 Broadway, New York 12, New York. It would be best to write to them for prices and availability. Prices fluctuate depending upon size of crop in Korea and Japan.

Bermuda in Illinois

Q: We are considering putting in Bermuda greens in the near future. Would you recommend 328 this far north or is U3 to be preferred? Which is the best method of planting, sprigging, plugging or broadcasting? (Illinois)

A: In considering Bermudagrass for greens in your climate are you aware that large areas of Bermudas may be completely killed when winter and early spring play is permitted on them? Regardless of the type of Bermuda you would use, you should expect to play on them only from June to October.

Three putting green Bermudas may be considered — U-3, Uganda and 328. U-3 and Uganda are the most winter hardy. U-3 will be the most difficult to get into putting green condition. It is more of a tee and fairway grass.

Broadcast planting of sprigs is best, quite similar to stolonizing with bent. Row planting of sprigs will be most economical of planting material but it will take longer to produce a smooth putting surface.

Regardless of the kind of grass or of the planting method used, one factor of success is incorporation of ample nutrients in the seedbed before planting. This includes lime, P, K, and up to 8 lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft. of organic slow-release nitrogen.