



Good lie on this Puccinellia equals anything on the best fescue fairway.

TURF TIPS

from O. J. Noer

Puccinellia for Strong Saline Soil

The Utah Copper CC at Magna, U., has a bad fairway salt problem. The ground water is highly charged with salt from nearby Great Salt Lake. The water table is only 12 to 18 ins. below the surface. During warm weather upward movement of soil water by capillary action carries salt to the surface. Incrustations of white salt are extensive on all fairways.

The turf cover is improving greatly under a program of fertilization with the principal emphasis on nitrogen. At first glance the grass is mistaken frequently for a fine-leaved fescue such as chewings, Ilahee, or creeping red. The ball sets up exactly the same way as on the very finest fescue fairway.

Two Strains Found

The grass cover is Puccinellia distans, one of the so-called "salt grasses". There are two strains at least in the turf. One forms a dense cover of uniform texture. The other has a tendency to swirl and makes a slightly bunch type of growth. But the combination of the two types provides the kind of turf golfers like.

Bermudagrass is alkali tolerant. Magna is outside the Bermuda belt. It adjoins Salt Lake City and is too far north and located at an elevation too high for good Bermuda performance. Another drawback is a state law prohibiting its transportation into the state despite the fact that there may be some in the southern part.

Puccinellia distans is unquestionably more salt tolerant than Bermuda. It seems

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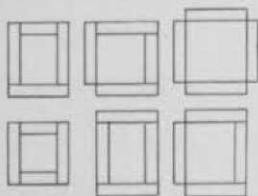
Nitrogen fertilization enables grass to get foothold in salt covered soil.

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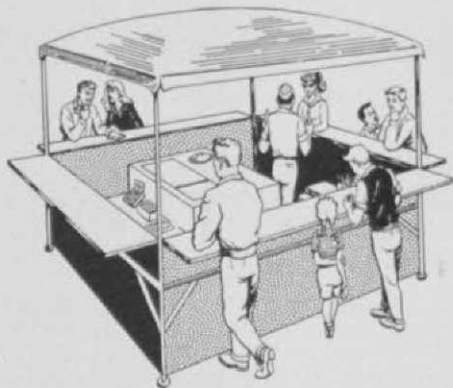
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of it to use you should keep temp. and humidity in mind as well as the age of the weed, moisture content of the soil, height of cut, etc. Your spray equipment should be accurately calibrated to minimize excessive burning. My spraying was at 400 lbs. pressure and the boom was reduced to 5 T-jets which gave a spray pattern of 10 ft. and helped eliminate overlapping and skipping.

As I see it, there should be a herbicide that will definitely kill crowfoot. The pre-emergent TAT 42 may be the answer but it is going to take some experimentation by supts. to prove it. What we need is a herbicide that will prevent crowfoot from seeding, or better still, if the plant completes its life cycle, cause it to produce a sterile seed. Then, perhaps, light maintenance sprayings of 2-4-D would make mowing of the weed easier.

Puccinellia in Saline Soil

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to withstand hot weather and could be the answer to vexing salt spots throughout the semi-arid Southwest and on low-lying areas along the seacoast elsewhere in the

Bermuda belt. The possibility of its use in these regions should be explored.

Wide Distribution

Success is more than likely because Hitchcock in "Manual of the Grasses of the United States" mentions distribution as being from Quebec to Alaska, south to Maryland, Michigan, Wisconsin, and North Dakota; Washington south to New Mexico and California. The more slender species are the form described as *P. distans* var. *tenuis* (Uechtritiz) Fern and Weath.

Turf of *Puccinellia distans* can be produced by vegetative planting. Viable seed has been gathered from wasteland adjoining the fairways at Magna. Seed can be produced if there is a demand for it.

CMAA Workshop Programs

The seven CMAA workshop programs that will be offered in Aug. and Sept. at Cornell, Michigan State, U. of Florida, U. of Minnesota, Reed College, U. of Houston and Los Angeles A. C., will feature the supervisory development plan that is sponsored by the American Hotel Assn. All of the sessions will last three days.