

Best Combinations Sought in Sea Island Tests

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For the past two years we have been cooperating with O. J. Noer and Charlie Wilson of the Milwaukee Sewerage Commission in running 25 overseeding test plots on the margin of one of our regular greens. Grasses used in these plots, both individually and in various combinations and at various rates, have been: Domestic and perennial rye, Seaside, Penncross, Highland and Astoria bents — poa trivialis-Redtop-Pennlawn Fescue and Kentucky blue. While results of the tests cannot yet be considered conclusive, we think we have learned a lot. Tests will be continued again this year.

The finer textured grasses in these tests which have appeared to be the best, either individually or in various combinations, have been Seaside and Penncross Bent, poa trivialis and Pennlawn Fescue.

Slow to Catch On

At Sea Island, grasses other than rye did not develop fast enough in the fall to provide satisfactory color and density in Dec. and Jan. when our Bermudagrass normally is dormant. We have important tournaments during these months and we must also compete with South Florida resorts, so we feel we must still use some domestic ryegrass because of its earlier development.

For the past two seasons we have overlooked our 27 (328) Bermuda greens with a combination of poa trivialis, Seaside Bentgrass and domestic. Our superintendent, Marion McKendree, uses the following renovation and seeding methods:

Preparation and Sowing

In mid-October greens are seeded with two pounds each of Seaside Bent and poa trivialis per 1,000 sq. ft. The seedbed was prepared by aerifying the greens with ¼-inch spoons and at time of seeding they were verti-cut fairly severely in at least two directions and thoroughly spiked with a Wolfram 3-gang spiker. The greens were then lightly topdressed, seed sown and lightly matted in. Daily hand-watering was practiced until seed was well up. A fair stand of the two grasses was obtained in three weeks.

Fungicides were applied only when weather conditions were favorable for fungus development.

Didn't Thin by Verti-Cutting

After an interval of three to four weeks, domestic rye was planted at the rate of 40 to 50 lbs per 1,000 sq. ft. Greens weren't verti-cut for this ryegrass planting because we thought this would tend to thin the stand of poa trivialis and Seaside. The greens at this time were thoroughly spiked with a 3-gang spiker, seeded to ryegrass and topdressed lightly. Fungicide consisting of Captan and Actidione was applied after seeding in an effort to hold down damping-off in an effium. Greens were kept in play continuously with mowing height raised to ½-inch for two weeks for the ryegrass seedlings.

Weather Has Helped

We have had uniformly excellent greens for the two seasons we have followed this seeding procedure. However, weather conditions have been favorable and results may not be as good in a season when the weather is more conducive to fungus development.

The poa trivialis, perhaps because of its light green color, has been particularly noticeable in the greens all season. The greater density of the turf has apparently resulted in finer texture of the ryegrass blades than usual for our climate and, of course, the poa trivialis and bent have contributed to finer texture, and better appearance and putting qualities. Transition back to Bermuda in the late spring for the two test seasons has been gradual and without trouble. Greens have been aerified with the Greensaire ¼-in. spoons at least a couple of times during the season and more often in the case of two or three problem greens.

(More on Overseeding on page 72)

Canadian PGA Growth

In 1916 when it was founded, the Canadian PGA had 16 pro members and 8 assistants. Now it has more than 300 members.