

produce better turf than their common counterparts. A grass that has been severely damaged by leafspot in the spring can't take advantage of stored fertility as well as one that is highly resistant to the disease. Merion blue, for example, repeatedly has been shown to produce denser turf that stays greener longer into drought periods than common Kentucky blue.

Recharged by Rainfall

The grasses cited have the ability to grow well when moisture and plant food are available, then to become dormant by degrees when moisture is denied. They lose green color as drought stresses become greater, but well-fed turf retains a desirable playing cushion. Roots and rhizomes become charged with food reserves. When rainfall recharges the soil with moisture, the turf literally bursts forth in new verdance and again develops dense, cushiony grass. Reserves of nutrients in the soil are there, ready to feed the grass as soon as moisture is present to permit movement of materials into the roots.

Cultivation of soils beneath unwatered turf must be done to permit the maximum rainfall to enter the soil. Runoff wastes valuable water. Many tools are available to cultivate turf soils. Some can be used only when soils are wet so that soil moisture lubricates the parts that enter the soil. Others are built so that they can operate when soils are quite dry. Reserves of nutrients can best be incorporated into turf soils when they, the latter, are cultivated. Then materials have the best chance of being carried deeply into the soil where bacterial action enhances their value.

Out of Season

Q. At our course we have a rather large membership and the traffic on our small greens is terrific. After reading your fine articles, I thought perhaps you could help me with my problem.

During the winter we have several members who are persistent in removing the snow from the practice green and wearing a path from one cup to the next. Cups cannot be changed due to the frozen condition of the soil. When I try to explain the damage this does they want many technical reasons as to why it should not be putted on. It would be of great help to the green committee and myself if you could give us these reasons.

You advised us two years ago to plant Penncross seed on three of our greens. At

the time we were reluctant to accept seed over stolons. At the end of two seasons the greens are in excellent condition.

(West Virginia)

A. When, in the judgment of the green chairman and the superintendent, it is necessary to close the course or any portion of it, all members should accept the ruling. Action of this kind is taken reluctantly by the committee, knowing that some members will be disappointed. But it is far better to incur the displeasure of a few selfish players than to jeopardize the pleasure of the rest of the membership.

Frozen grass cannot repair itself. Worn paths made during winter most likely will need to be resodded when growing weather comes. It is wholly unfair to incur extra maintenance expense because of damage caused by a few out-of-season players.

Sudden thaws can leave the surface soft and mushy while the soil beneath is still frozen and firm. Traffic at this time causes sod to slip, buckle and shift, severing roots. The grass then dies. In addition, footprinting creates such bumpy conditions that pleasurable putting is impossible. Many topdressings will be needed to bring the putting surface back.

If the play of the diehards continues, these players should be persuaded to finance the building of a green on which they can play without restriction. All repairs and maintenance costs would be added to their club bill each month.

Your report on the excellent condition of the three greens seeded to Penncross bent is very gratifying.

Resodding with Zoysia

Q. We want to grow some zoysia sod from seed to resod some tees that we can't keep grass on. We've heard that it can take heavy traffic.

What kind of seed should we get, where can we get it, and what is the best way to plant it? Any other information will be welcome.

(North Carolina)

A. Zoysia sod, grown in a nursery and sodded on the teeing ground, will resist a tremendous amount of club, foot and machine traffic when given adequate feeding and sensible management. Good soil is preferable but not essential. Good drainage is necessary.

All seed in this country comes from the Orient and is known as Japanese lawngrass, or common zoysia.

See your local seed merchant. If he does not carry the seed he can get it from the importer. So far as we know the only firm that imports zoysia seed is Herbst Bros., Inc., 678 Broadway, New York 12, N.Y.

Unless otherwise noted, your zoysia seed will reach you with the hulls on. This seed must be pre-germinated for best results. Mix

(Continued on page 136)