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Grau's Answers

(Continued from page 74)

use has to be understood by the supt. or water-logging can result. Some day computers may be put to work to coordinate agronomic factors, infiltration and the use of cultivation devices. Then something like perfect turf, impervious to poa annua, and green all summer will be realized. Unless, of course, the members intervene!

Research also has shown that the rooting depth of different species of turf has much to do with water needs. I know, for example, where Merion Blue survived after a month of zero irrigation in arid country. Bermuda held color and life for over 100 days under the same conditions. Numerous other examples such as these can be cited.

Researchers, agronomists, irrigation specialists and, of course, supts. need to get together and put irrigation and fertility levels in the proper perspective. There is a needless waste of water and turf because their thinking has never been fully coordinated.

Penncross Vetch

Q. Please send further information on Penn-cross vetch as mentioned in *GOLFDOM* in a recent issue. We plan to seed our irrigated fairways to Highland bent and the greens to Penncross. What is your opinion? (Ohio)

A. Penncross for greens is a good choice. It is the best seeded bent for putting greens. Vegetated creeping bents are still very much in the picture but superiority depends heavily upon management.

A mixture of Colonial bents (Astoria and Highland) would be better than either one alone. Since all Colonial bent seed carries a certain percentage of creeping types, it is a safe bet that your fairways will become creeping bent. Why not go one step further and add five pounds per acre of Penncross seed to hasten the day when you can begin at once to manage for creeping bent. Those who warn that Penncross will develop thatch are right. But, since all turfgrasses develop thatch, why not start using current knowhow, improved fertilizers, lime, and specialized equipment to prevent thatch from becoming a nuisance. Certainly, you will be able to mow Penncross creeping bent fairways more closely and to irrigate less frequently. Diseases and poa will be less of a problem.

Incidentally, have you considered hydroseeding your bent seeds? Distribution is more nearly perfect, seeding rate can be lower and more accurate, and germination time is reduced.