

# NO UGLY seed heads

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In spring most lawn grasses sprout green and beautiful turf. Then an ugly problem arises. Seedheads begin to appear with gypsy abandon, turning the green scene into a jungle of wiry straws even sharp mowers fail to sever. This wire-like growth remains an eyesore.

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## Answers to turf questions

by Fred V. Grau

### A turf museum?

In 1927 at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, it was my privilege to help plant and care for a living plant museum. We grew on several acres in rod rows every plant that could be grown in that climate: beans and barley, cotton, corn and castor beans, einkhorn and emmer, oats and okra, speltz, soybeans, wheat, wheatgrass.

In 1937 in England I saw a living weed museum, which was maintained at the Board of Greenkeeping Research, Bingley, St. Ives, Yorkshire. Each weed of turf was grown in a clump bordered by a path of neatly mown turf and was identified by a label. To date, I've seen nothing comparable to it in this country.

In September, 1968, at the Turf Valley CC I addressed a joint meeting of the Mid-Atlantic and the Philadelphia Superintendent's Associations. While showing a 1946 picture of a wheelbarrow seeder, then at least 25 years old, I said that the turfgrass industry should maintain a museum that would house relics and artifacts of the industry: tools, machines,

sod cutters, mowers, boots for horses that pulled the mowers and many, many more.

Among the first men to comment favorably on the idea were Elwyn Deal, University of Maryland, and Eddie Ault, golf course architect. Superintendents also expressed interest. One thought was to locate the museum near Washington, D.C., to best serve the nation's turfgrass industry.

While writing this column for GOLFDOM, another thought came to my mind: Why not create a museum for tools associated with a living turf museum in which all growing grasses and weeds would be displayed? And to top it off, what would be wrong with establishing a turfgrass hall of fame?

I can dream, can't I? Does anyone have a relic in his attic? Or a nomination for the hall of fame? Hopefully, we can begin to gather ideas as to how all of this can best be accomplished. Comments are invited.

Q.—With the trend toward blends of bluegrasses there seems to be a tendency to use less red fescue in mixtures. What is your view?

(Maryland)

A.—The more I see of quality turf from bluegrass blends the more I realize that red fescue is losing its place in the traditional bluegrass-fescue mixture. Red fescue has a different standard of maintenance and, when subjected to the level of nitrogen feeding required for bluegrass, it tends to disappear. The improved bluegrasses can stand on their merits, especially in blends in which the weakness in one variety

Continued on page 83

## Grau

Continued from page 76

is masked by strength in another. Bluegrass-fescue mixtures, however, will be standard for a long time for lawns that have both sun and shade.

Q.—Our club wants to convert from patchy *Poa annua* and Kentucky bluegrass fairways to bermudagrass. Should we kill the bluegrass first and then reseed with bermuda? We have complete irrigation. Some native bermuda is spreading in our fairways.

(Texas)

A.—In your area you need not consider chemical destruction of all the bluegrass. Annual bluegrass will die if denied water for a few days. Kentucky bluegrass may be a good friend for winter and spring color. By seeding hulled bermuda into the existing fairways and by judicious fertilizing and watering, you should be able to convert to bermuda without the use of chemicals. The punch method of seeding (Gill seeder or equal) is producing excellent results.

Q.—We have many rock (sugar or hard) maples on our course. Would it be all right to mulch my greens (to prevent dessication and winterkill) with these leaves? We can get salt hay but the leaves are free.

(Connecticut)

A.—To avoid matting and smothering, it would seem best to first put down a layer of salt hay, then use hard maple leaves to complete the cover. Be sure to use a snow-mold fungicide before mulching.

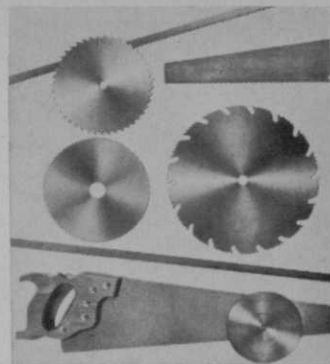
Q.—Why have the prices of grass seed gone up?

(Delaware)

A.—Turfgrass seeds in the Pacific Northwest normally are cut and windrowed for curing and threshing. This year rains fell on the windrowed seed which then began to sprout. Losses will run from 25 to 100 per cent, and prices will reflect seed shortage. □

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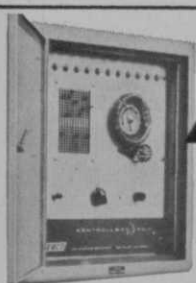
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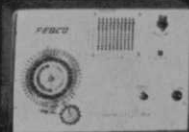
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