

Grau

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Kentucky bluegrass is a weed in iris beds and rock gardens. Bentgrass is a weed in a bluegrass turf. Crownvetch is a weed in iris beds, shrub borders and rock gardens. Volunteer corn is a weed in soybean fields. Multiflora rose, once thought to be the answer to living fences for livestock and crash barriers for median strips

between highway lanes, now is threatening pasture lands over a wide area. Kudzu, long promoted by governmental agencies as the answer to erosion in the South, has gone berserk swallowing buildings, bridges, farmlands at a prodigious rate. Honeysuckle, for many years specified for erosion control on highway slopes, is in serious decline for its weed tendencies in climbing fences, shrubs, trees and in invading farmlands.

Yes, there are many economic plants that, under a given set of conditions, may be considered weeds. *Asclepias tuberosa*, the orange milkweed, is classed as a weed, yet it is one of our most strikingly beautiful wildflowers. It is one of my favorites. Chicory in a farmer's wheat field is a weed, yet who has not thrilled to its heavenly blue flowers early in the morning along a country roadside.

We have only touched on the subject but I'm sure that you, and many other GOLFDOM readers, have examples of your own.

Q.—In our group we can't seem to agree on the question of when to aerate the greens. Should it be before or after fertilizing?

(Pennsylvania)

A.—I've seen greens that were aerated and then fertilized. It created "green measles." The grass grew best immediately adjacent to (and around) the aeration hole. Putting was bumpy for quite awhile. I prefer to fertilize in advance of aerating so that the grass is growing uniformly and will more quickly heal the scars.

Q.—What would you consider a rule-of-thumb recommendation for a topsoil that ranges from sandy loam to loamy sand in respect to using it for putting construction? What volume material would you judge necessary to make a satisfactory mix?

(Vermont)

A.—Without seeing samples of the soils and without screen tests to determine particle sizes, I wouldn't even hazard a guess as to relative volumes of materials. At one time, before we had laboratories for running compaction and percolation, I would have made an educated guess as to proportions. In these days of heavy play I would advise consultation with a good testing laboratory. □

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