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Q—*In spite of extensive research, many conferences, after-hours discussions and shall we say arguments, we still seem to have wide differences about soil texture, sand sizes, drainage and other features. We can't seem to agree on how best to grow perfect turf. Is there a board of arbitration? Is there a final judgment? How can these dif-*

ferences be resolved? (Oklahoma)

A—Let me assure you, you have not reached that point of final judgment. To many, unfortunately, "sand" is still "sand," even though one sample contains 10 per cent clay; the other 0.5 per cent clay, even though both screen out the same.

The best solution that I can see for the future is: 1) more research, 2) regional conferences of scientists to iron out the discrepancies and 3) more study and awareness of

current data by architects, builders and superintendents. There seems to be a lack of understanding of the data that has been presented by scientific research. In some cases the deficiency has been interpretation of data. Let's face it, we still have a long way to go.

Q—*Bluegrass or bent (one or the other) is fine for fairways when you go far enough north; bermudagrass (or zoysia) is fine if you go far enough south. Have we solved the dilemma of fairways in the "crabgrass belt," where the "dead" bermuda in the spring is abhorred or, in some cases, the rotting Poa annua in August causes members to take up tennis? Is there an answer? (Virginia)*

A—There is hope for the "twilight zone." There are new bluegrasses that can move further south if given intelligent management. There is tall fescue that, on some courses, is providing sensational fairway turf. The new turf-type perennial ryegrasses, reseeded annually, are doing a job that many thought impossible. I've mentioned no variety names—they are available from several experiment stations. Skepticism runs rife when tall fescue is mentioned, but you should see it to believe it. Few superintendents have yet given the improved bluegrass and turf-type ryegrasses a chance. The name of the game is, however, "intelligent management."

Q—*We are looking forward to fall overseeding of our bermudagrass greens with mixed emotions. Nothing we have used to date has been entirely satisfactory. We've been encouraged to try some of the fine turf-type ryegrasses alone and in combination with some of the other cool-season grasses we have been using. Would you venture an opinion? (North Carolina)*

A—It may be too long to wait before you get the answers from research quarters so I would encourage you to treat one or two greens with one or two of the leading fine perennial ryegrasses. They cost more per pound, but their performance leads us to believe that you will need less seed to get the same amount of coverage. □



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