

THE NAME OF THE GAME!

IN GOLF IT'S
Warren's® A-20
Bluegrass



THE FINEST GOLF GRASS FOR TEES FOR FAIRWAYS FOR APPROACHES

- Heals more rapidly from divot injury.
- Requires less maintenance.
- Greater disease resistance.
- Stiff upright growth supports ball better.
- Thrives under short mowing down to $\frac{3}{8}$ ".
- Hardy. Withstands traffic.

**RATED "EXCELLENT" BY
LEADING UNIVERSITIES AND
RESEARCH ORGANIZATIONS.**

Available only
as sod or plugs



For more information circle number 126 on card



by Fred V. Grau

ANSWERS TO TURF QUESTIONS

Turf in South Africa

Park turf and street turf in Johannesburg and Pretoria mainly is kikuyu-grass. It needs little attention aside from mowing and rarely is watered. Many new lawns are planted to kikuyu. It is vigorous, nearly pest free and weed free. On golf fairways it is excellent when managed, but it gets thick and fluffy when neglected or when cut too high.

Common bermudagrass—called "Kweek"—is widely used for fairway turf. During drought periods it remains green much longer than "improved" strains. Bradley, an improved type, shows nematode damage, except where generously fertilized and watered. Florida C. is a fine-bladed grass that is used on greens, tees and fairways. In the absence of a high maintenance program it falls a bit short. Skaaplaas Fine in my view is the outstanding specialty grass for greens, lawns and other close-cut turf. Another one high on my list is Frankwald Fine which is used on tennis courts.

It was interesting to observe the beginnings of Penncross bent in the Transvaal (elevation over 5,000 feet). First attempts suffered from an on-site mixing of gold-mine sand and sawdust. Mixing and composting of sawdust both were incomplete. Penncross bent will succeed, but all factors must be right, not the least of which is a superintendent who knows bent.

The new course being built by Gary Player and Sid Brews is designed for Penncross greens, and their basics are sound.

Bermuda greens are brown from May to October (winter) and are played on continuously. When bent greens become established, it would seem logical that there will be a general conversion. *Poa annua* is one of the dreaded pests in dormant bermudagrass. In Penncross it would be a minor inconvenience.

A common weed in turf is "young osgrass" or "young oxgrass," so named because it is so tough. It is *Eleusine indica*: goosegrass.

The Merion Kentucky bluegrass that I sent to South Africa 10 years ago is still thriving in partial shade of a plum tree in Johannesburg and also at the Frankwald Research Station. It would seem that cool-season grasses are deserving of further research.

A good rough grass on many courses is *Eragrostis curvula*, weeping lovegrass. It is a drought tolerant bunchgrass that can stand occasional close clipping. It is used widely in the United States on dry sandy sites from Maryland south.

At Reading CC on the No. 9 green a new type of bermudagrass has been observed growing in pure stands in patches several feet square. The grass is very fine without grain and has good color. Suggestions were made for spreading it.

It seems to be universal—operators on fairway mowers tend to travel too fast. The result is a ribbing which detracts from the general appearance.

One outfit near Carletonburg has started an irrigated grass and sod nursery. The principal grass so far is Skaaplaas Fine which is kept free of goosegrass by a crew of 140 native women.

In my view the most serious deterrent to progress in turfgrass research and education in South Africa is official apathy. There is a great need to train young men in technical and practical aspects of turfgrass management. A turfgrass survey would do much to put this phase of agriculture in proper perspective. Official recognition of turf by leading agricultural and horticultural bodies would help to lift it out of the doldrums.

Chemical substitutes: in time?

Q—The proposed restrictions on mercury, cadmium, arsenic and other long-time friends of good turf are
(Continued on page 28)