

GRAU from page 12

on bluegrass in the zoysia turf.

This brief discourse may do little to settle any controversy, but, hopefully, it will encourage thought-provoking seminars on the best approach to this perennial problem.

Q—Our Tuscote bermuda tees lack vigor. Some are one year old, some two, some three. We started using 38-0-0 this year (P, K and pH are at good levels) for the first time. Someone suggested resodding. I am holding out for overseeding. What is your opinion? (Maryland)

A—First, stimulate the bermuda with weekly applications of sulfate of ammonia at five pounds to 1,000 square feet (yields one pound of N). You won't reach peak performance with Ureaform until the second year when a reserve has been built up. With your scarifier seeder cut seed into the tees in two directions applying about four pounds to 1,000 square feet of this mixture: three pounds Palomora blend of ryegrasses (Pelo, Manhattan, Pennfine) and ½ pound each of Pennstar and Fylking. Stay with the UF program. Terminate the sulfate of ammonia applications when you have achieved good growth (two to three weeks). I advise against resodding.

Q—We have parts of our rough and unused area on the golf course literally overrun with common milkweed. It is a big plant that attracts the Monarch butterfly and produces wonderful flowers and later, big pods that when ripe, release winged seeds that travel for miles on the wind. Should we try to eliminate it or does it have a use? (Ohio)

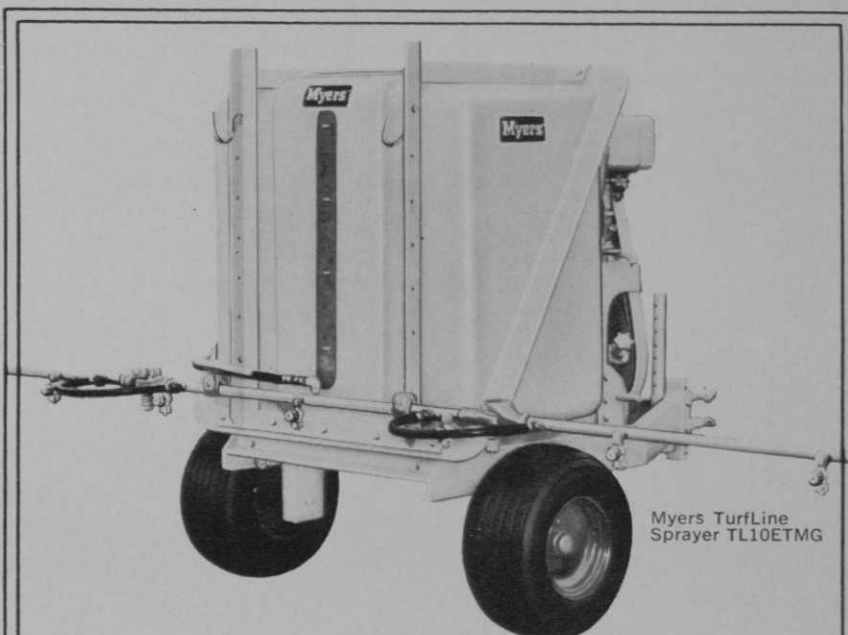
A—I may not be the right person to ask about milkweeds. I love them! I pick the unopened flower buds along with the tender leaves just above them and cook them as I would broccoli. The difference is that milkweed, properly prepared and seasoned, is far superior to any broccoli I've ever eaten. Later when the young tender pods are forming, I will gather, cook and freeze them, too, for my winter supply of greens. Warning! Avoid milkweeds that have been sprayed with poisons.

I know that some of my readers will ask in wonder, "Has Dr. Grau become dotty in his advanced age?"

The answer is no! I only wish I had known earlier what I know now about living off nature's bounty—for free.

Q—We have been given solid evidence by scientists that the new elite fine-leaved turf-type ryegrasses are comparable in leaf width to the better Kentucky bluegrasses. To our dismay we cannot buy (or sell) "Certified Sod" in some states because it contains these elite ryegrasses. Can you explain this discrimination? (New York)

A—Time was when the coarse-blade annual (common) ryegrass was relegated to a classification labeled "coarse." The rapid development and acceptance of the elite perennial ryegrasses has caught some of the certification agencies with their "plants down." They appear to be oblivious to facts and continue to think of ryegrass in the old, outmoded sense. If I were an official of a certifying agency, I would do all in my power to certify turfgrass mixtures that contain the new breed of perennial ryegrasses. □



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