

RECORDS OF A FIVE-YEAR TEST

LAST season marked the end of the five-year period necessary to get a complete set of records on the first group of selections made in 1928. In that year records were made on approximately 1700 plants in the plant nursery. Thirty-one of these original plants have come through the second year in the sod plots. Records on seven of these thirty-one selections are so encouraging that they will be multiplied during the coming season for practical trials.

Since 1928 an average of approximately 800 plants have been grown each year in the plant nursery. As a result of selection from these we have forty-two strains of *Agrostis canina* growing in the propagating nursery. Fourteen of these have already had one season in the sod plots and the others will be put in as soon as possible. In addition to these the propagating nursery contains a total of fifty-three selections of *Agrostis palustris*, forty of which have been in the sod plots for from one to two years.

The greatest weakness of the selection work as described thus far, will be apparent immediately to the practical groundskeeper. It does not give us performance records of the new selections under growing conditions that are different from those at State College in Pennsylvania. In addition, it makes no provision for giving a new selection the most important test of all—its performance under actual playing conditions.

HOW GRASS STRAINS ARE TESTED

IT is recognized that no study of new strains would be of general value unless it included tests of their adaptation to a wide range of soil and climatic conditions and of their ability to stand up under heavy play. As strains demonstrate in the preliminary study that they have desirable qualities from a turf-forming standpoint, such as a high degree of resistance to disease, winter hardiness, freedom from graining, etc., and deserve further testing, they are multiplied in a nursery maintained for this purpose.

As soon as sufficient material is available, small amounts of each strain are sent out to groundskeepers in different sections of the state who are willing to grow them in their nurseries and make the necessary observations on them. At the present time from four to seven new strains are being grown for

observational purposes, on eight golf courses in various parts of the state.

Facilities at the Pennsylvania State College are excellent for making playing tests on the new strains. An eighteen-hole course is maintained by the college on which an average of approximately two hundred rounds of golf are played per day. One of the greens has been set aside for the strain tests and plantings will be made as fast as material becomes available and budget limits permit. It is probable that as additional strains are developed the number of greens used for experimental purposes may be increased.

One additional phase of the study of strains of the bent grasses, should be noted. In addition to the testing work being done with new selections we have a number of strains growing in the sod plots or propagating nursery that have been selected by greenkeepers on their golf courses. It is hardly necessary to say that a careful record is kept of the origin of these strains so that full credit may be given to the man who has found them. The same comparisons are made and records kept on these strains as on new selections.

We are interested in securing as many types as possible, particularly those that have already given some indication of adaptability under local conditions. Consequently, if any of you groundskeepers have selections that should be included in our tests we will be very glad to have them and to send you the performance records on them as these become available.

Greenkeepers Course at Amherst

Lawrence S. Dickinson, assistant professor of agronomy of Massachusetts State College announces the annual greenkeepers course to be held at Amherst, March 11 and 12. A splendid speaking program has been arranged together with the usual Question Box which has always been a feature. In addition there will be an exhibition of the very latest equipment used in turf culture.

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