

ASTORIA BENT

HOLFIOR BENT

PENNCROSS BENT



A new variety of Colonial Bentgrass reported to be as easily managed as bluegrasses is being introduced for golf course use by Northrup, King & Co.

Called HOLFIOR Bentgrass, the new variety has been undergoing tests by Northrup King since 1956 and is said to produce a turf of uniform color and texture over the entire fairway. It is recommended also for use on aprons and tees, but not on greens.

According to Howard Kaerwer, chief turf agronomist at Northrup King, HOLFIOR produces plants of leafy, dense and upright growth that do not segregate for color, texture, leaf width or growth characteristics. Golfers reportedly like the firm, upright support it gives the ball.

HOLFIOR thrives with only the moderate amounts of fertilization and irrigation required by bluegrasses. Intensive disease control measures are needed infrequently; it is resistant to snow mold and only moderately susceptible to Dollarspot.

Said to be the fastest-establishing bentgrass available, HOLFIOR also mows clean without matting or tufting. It can be mowed at any height from 1/4" to 1 3/4".

HOLFIOR adapts well to varying conditions of soil and moisture, and is compatible with the new short-cut bluegrasses (Prato, Fylking, Pennstar). For more details, circle (713) on reply card.

Tell 'em How to Grow *YOUR* Sod

By Gene Ingalsbe

A purchaser of cultivated sod should get an "owner's manual."

Let's think about it.

Suppose you bought an automobile, tractor, or major appliance and weren't provided an owner's manual covering maintenance and operating instructions. The first time something went wrong and you

didn't know why or didn't know what to do, who would you blame? The manufacturer, of course.

Isn't it possible that the reaction may be the same when the product is sod? How many times have you had to replace sod when you knew your product wasn't at fault?

Turf specialists know that it's as easy to burn up a lawn as it is to burn up an engine; that a lawn can become as "sluggish" through improper fertilization, watering and

mowing, through weed infestation or disease as can an engine without proper maintenance.

Most cultivated sod is near perfect upon delivery. It just makes sense that the longer the sod remains that way, the longer the customer is going to be satisfied with the product. So wouldn't it be good business to tell the purchaser of your product how to keep it in "showroom" shape?

You know better than anyone else how to take care of that sod you grew. Most recommendations on turf care are necessarily general. Since sod is usually marketed within a 100-mile radius of where it is grown, you can provide the most precise information on how to care for it.

Where would you begin? Well, as a homeowner, here's what I would like to know:

1. Soil Preparation. What steps should be taken to prepare the ground for receiving the sod? Should I attempt to eliminate weeds, cultivate, fertilize?

2. Breaking-In Instructions. Exactly how should I water the new sod? When should I first mow it?

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What height? When should I first fertilize?

3. Mowing Instructions. How can mowing practices affect the health of my lawn? When should I mow? What height? How often? What do I do if I scalp a spot?

4. Fertilization. Give me a year-around program to follow.

5. Disease. Tell me what disease my sod is most susceptible to, when disease is most likely to occur, what the symptoms are, what curative measures I can take.

6. Weeds. What weeds are most likely to crop up? When? What weed killers are available to correct the problem? How do I apply the weed killers and at what rates?

7. Watering. How can watering practices affect the health of my lawn? When should I water? How much?

Instructions of this nature can be as detailed as the producer of the turf wishes. He could provide specific maintenance instructions for each variety he sells. The format might be simply an instructional leaflet, or a more complete, polished booklet that could double as a merchandising tool.

Dr. Henry Indyk, executive secretary of the American Sod Producers Association, predicts that the sod industry will continue to expand, but that demand may have to be cultivated. A grower will stay in the business only if he keeps up to date, he believes.

Success of some of the newer sod varieties may very well be determined by how well informed the buyer is concerning its maintenance. If not for this reason, then competition alone may produce a turf owner's manual.



"You've got weeds in your turf, Harry."

Try These Tips on Using Dicamba and Mecoprop

Broadleaf weeds in turf ought to be as archaic as the Model T Ford, exclaimed Dr. Edward W. Stroube at the recent Ohio Turfgrass Conference.

Good turf management practices should all but eliminate weeds, said the Ohio State agronomist, but should some appear, there's a herbicide to quickly take care of the culprit. Uniform and timely applications are necessary, however.

"Most weeds are more susceptible when there is good soil moisture and when the weeds are growing rapidly," he said. "They become more resistant when they become semi-dormant due to dry soil or as they approach maturity."

Herbicides recommended for broadleaf weed control are intended for turf areas only, Dr. Stroube reminded. Indiscriminate use can bring injury to flowers, trees, ornamentals and gardens. He advised that, if sprayed, the compounds should be applied at low pressure and during periods of little or no wind.

"Dicamba (Banvel) should not be used under desirable plantings, as root absorption by these plants may result in injury," he warned.

Herbicides should not be used on newly seeded turf unless weeds pose a greater danger, Dr. Stroube said. It has been reported, he added, that the relatively new herbicide, bromoxynil, is safe to use on seedling broadleaf weeds in newly established turf.

For states with climate similar to Ohio's, Dr. Stroube offers his recommendations in Table 1 for controlling some of the more common weeds that appear in turf.

Lee Record, agronomist for the United States Golf Association offered advice on using the systemic herbicides, Dicamba and Mecoprop (MCP).

The two will effectively control knotweed, clover, common chickweed and mouse ear chickweed. Formulated with 2,4-D, they will control dandelion, plantain and pigweed.

Systemic herbicides make use of

physiological differences of plants for selectivity, Record explained. Dicamba and Mecoprop applied to leaves penetrate the cuticle and stomata, translocating to the food or water conducting tissue and then to other parts of the plant.

Pattern of translocation is influenced by the kind and stage and growth of the plant, Record said.

"Sometimes, the herbicide is absorbed and inactivated by cells in the leaf," he said, "and sometimes it may remain on the leaf surface and never enter the plant."

Soil relationships to the herbicide, temperature and moisture have been

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RAPID-GRO

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