

The rugged nature of young Baron sod.

BULLISH ON BARON

By PETER LOFT and
JOHN MORRISSEY
Lofts Pedigreed Seed, Inc.
Bound Brook, N.J.

A TIDAL wave of new bluegrasses for tailored turf is sweeping the country's golf courses, sports locations and prestigious lawns. There are many reasons why.

Sod growers are switching to seed that germinates fast, has good seedling vigor and exhibits early, robust rhizoming. On the other side of the table, golf superintendents, landscapers and commercial turf specialists are demanding more from seed varieties than ever before.

Performance and economy rate big among these people. Contrast heavy use of a turf area with maintenance and it is easy to see why superintendents want a turf grass that performs under a variety of growing conditions. Superintendents figure that to make an average to good return on investment, a turf area must undergo extensive use for an extended period of time. And this area must resist disease, stand up under close mowing and be

hardy enough to overcome winter-kill.

This is asking a lot of traditional bluegrass varieties, but the newer varieties can take many of these demands in stride.

One new bluegrass seed variety that exhibits these traits is Baron. It was developed in Arnhem, Holland — the parent clone originated with the Barenbrug turf breeders and checks out as a highly apomictic

true-to-type pure line.

Baron has consistently been rated superior in seed field trials both in the United States and Europe. Its appearance on the American turf scene has brought interest from sodmen, turf specialists, and superintendents alike. Why? The answer lies in the distinctive features developed in this grass.

Baron is a fast germinating seed that produces a relatively broad blade foliage. It is low growing with shortened sheaths, but exhibits excellent rhizome production. Sod farmers find it weaves into a tenacious sod quickly. Many report that germination and root development exceeds other varieties by many days.

In germination tests of 100 seeds, 85 percent of the Baron seeds germinated in 14 days compared to only 19 percent for the Merion variety.

Reports on other aspects of this new bluegrass have been compiled from a number of university tests. Here are a few: Dr. Kenyon T.

(continued on page 33)

DISTINCTIVE FEATURES OF BARON BLUEGRASS

- *Relatively broad blade foliage
- *Low growing with shortened sheaths
- *Longer growing season
- *Prolific rhizome production
- *Quick seed germination
- *Good seeding vigor
- *Certified clean seed, free of Poa annua and bentgrass

BULLISH (from page 25)

Payne of Michigan State University says that in comparing 64 bluegrass varieties, Baron rated in the upper third (2.3 on a 1-10 scale). Merion, a standard of sod growers, rated only slightly lower at 2.5. One other commercial variety and a couple of experimental hybrids rated higher.

Dr. J. L. Eggens, Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, summarized his findings in the **Turfgrass Variety Trials 1968-1970**. Over seventy varieties were evaluated for hardiness, color, density, texture, disease resistance, and vigor. Four replicates were made and all grasses were mowed at 1½ inches. Monthly ratings from April through November were made on a 0 lowest to 10 highest scale.

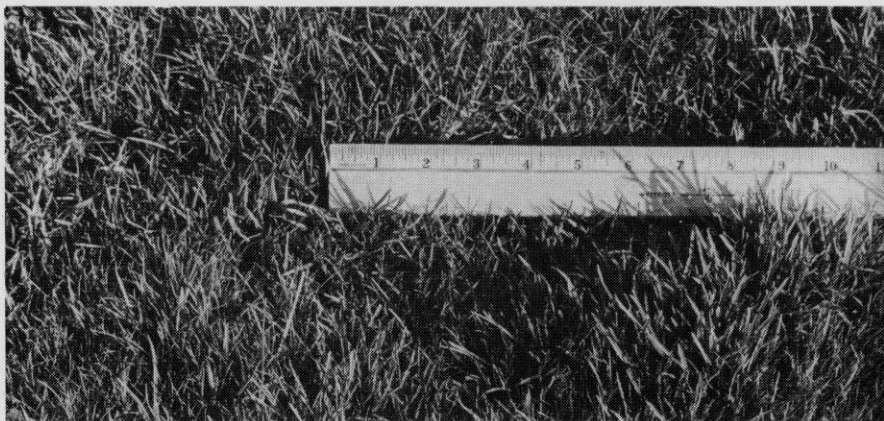
For the 1968 period, Baron averaged 7.1. The following year the average was 6.3. The average for all other leading bluegrass varieties was 5.3. Less than 15 percent of the trials scored as high as 6.0.

In another trial at the University of Rhode Island, Dr. C. R. Skogley reported that Baron plantings were considered to be an excellent new variety. Trials since summer of 1966 have consistently performed well. Skogley said that Baron resembles Merion in many respects but seems less subject to dollarspot and less demanding of fertilization. Stripe smut and leafspot incidence has been low.

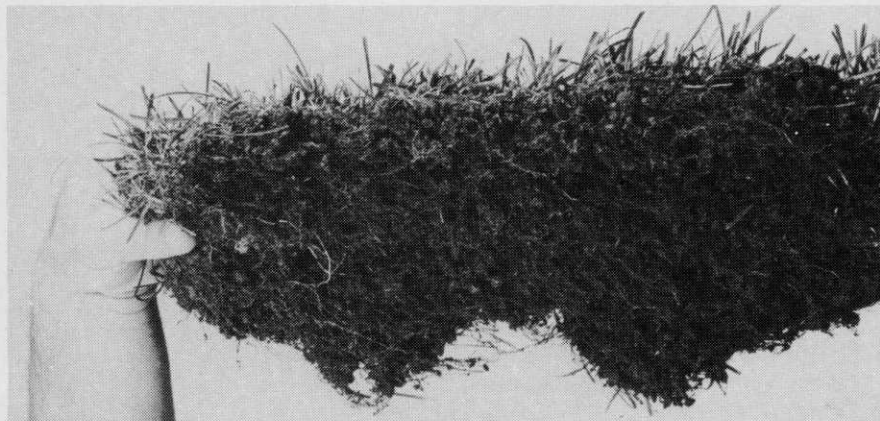
One reason for its acceptance among superintendents is performance on the course. Baron grows slowly. This means fewer mowings. This bluegrass can be mowed as low as three-fourths inch without damage. There appears to be an interlocking of the sturdy grass blades to form a strong sod surface. On fairways and tees, golf balls are not buried.

Superintendents are now looking for turf varieties that hold color throughout a longer playing season. Baron has deep coloring and to a large degree retains much of this coloring during the winter season. Reports from Germany indicate that Baron greens up ahead of other leading varieties in the spring.

Currently, Baron has been granted a U.S. patent. Loft Seed Company, exclusive agent for Baron in this country, and Barenbrug intend to insure the market by all legal means that only blue tag certified seed free of *Poa annua* and bentgrass be sold. Indications are that there will be a fine, economical seed crop in the production year ahead.



Baron sod grows fast. This sod is only six weeks old from seeding.



Tough root-rhizome system of Baron sod only a few months after seeding.





SAVE MONEY!
SAVE LABOR!
SAVE PLANTS!

Easy method for beautiful trees, evergreens, flowers, shrubs.

Designed for commercial or institutional use where saving of labor means saving of money.

Three Heavy Duty Ross Root Feeders ganged together with all necessary fittings and two 6' lengths of high quality hose. Kit includes 240 high-nitrogen Tree and Shrub Cartridges:

Regular Price of Kit \$38.00
Special Offer \$32.50

Additional cases of 240 Tree and Shrub Cartridges \$9.00 Each

Send check or money order for prepaid shipment.

ROSS DANIELS, INC. P.O. Box 430, 1720 Fuller Road,
West Des Moines, Iowa 50265