

“Since 1971, every pound of bluegrass mixture we use at Merion Golf Club contains 75% Baron Kentucky Bluegrass.”

U.S. Plant Patent #3186 Dwarf Variety

Richard Valentine, Golf Course Superintendent at Merion Golf Club has some interesting ideas about turf management. Here are some experiences he has shared with us.

“I don’t believe in heavy feeding, and that seems to suit Baron just fine. I never use more than three pounds of nitrogen per 1000 square feet per annum. Baron doesn’t seem to need those high nitrogen applications that some people are using on bluegrass. And, less fertilizer means less fungus and thatch. . . I like that.”



“We have a tradition to uphold here at Merion and, by golly I’m going to make sure we use nothing but the best. Baron Kentucky Bluegrass belongs here at Merion.”

“I used to have much more thatch before I started using Baron. And it comes up fast too. I cut-in Baron and it germinates in 10 days . . . one half the normal time.” Rich discusses Baron’s quick growth with Peter Loft and Andy Sweeney, local supplier.



“Merion has lots of hillsides and slopes . . . here’s where Baron really stands out. We use a Jacobsen Seeder and cut seed into the soil. You have to plant grass seed . . . you can’t just throw it on the ground. The only place I don’t use Baron is on the tees and greens, which are bentgrass.”

Richard Valentine, Golf Course Superintendent at Merion Golf Club, Ardmore, Pa. is the second superintendent in Merion’s famous 79-year history, succeeding his father, Joseph, who held the position for 54 years.



“We cut our fairways to one inch all year long. During our regular Fall renovation program on approaches and drive areas, we use a mixture of five bluegrasses . . . 75% of that mixture has been Baron. We’ll use the same mixture next Fall.”

“I’ve used Baron for four years on all my fairways and up to this date I haven’t had one case of helminthosporium. Baron stays greener during the cold months and brightens up fast in the Spring.”

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