

BETTER LAWN

PUBLISHED PERIODICALLY BY THE NEWS BUREAU OF
BETTER LAWN & TURF INSTITUTE—



Harvests

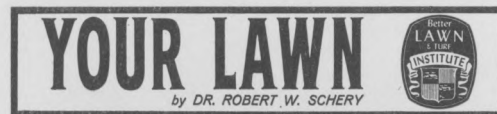
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Vol. 6, No. 5

April 1, 1960

NEW CARTOON PROMOTES BLUEGRASS AND FESCUE

The third in the Institute cartoon panel series, "Your Lawn" has just been released to 2,080 selected newspapers through Derus Media Service.

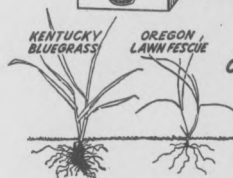


**A TOWNSHIP IN A THIMBLE
IN YOUR LAWN!**

A MERE THIMBLE FULL OF CLAY EARTH CONTAINS SO MANY MINUTE PARTICLES—EACH ONLY A MILLIONTH OF AN INCH WIDE—THAT ALL TOGETHER THEY AFFORD A SURFACE FOR SOIL REACTIONS AS BIG AS A TOWNSHIP.



OREGON LAWN FESCUES AND KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS—THE OUTSTANDING COMPANION LAWN GRASSES—FINGER SO MANY FINE ROOTLETS INTO ALL CREVICES OF THIS TREMENDOUS SOIL SURFACE THEY TURN CLAY INTO TOPSOIL!



A fourth feature is in preparation and is expected to be released in the near future.

Clippings are received from all newspapers that run "Your Lawn" and they are compiled into the Institute's permanent scrapbook.

ANNUAL MEETING TO BE MAY 21

This year's Annual Meeting will be held on May 21 at the Kansas City Club, 13th & Baltimore, Kansas City, Missouri. The first session will begin at 10:00 A. M.

INSTITUTE PREPARES 610 SPRING PRESS KITS

A record number of 610 Spring, 1960 Lawn Institute Press Kits were prepared for distribution to the country's leading lawn and landscape newspaper and magazine editors.

Three byline articles by Dr. Schery entitled, "The Cost of Living Lawn Grass," "New Fields to Conquer," and "Lawn Tending Logic" were accompanied by three glossy print photographs, reprints of three recent magazine articles by Dr. Schery and sample packets of Kentucky bluegrass and Oregon Fine Fescues.

All articles promote the advantages of good bluegrass-fine-leaf fescue mixtures. First lawn articles appearing in newspapers this spring from the Institute's clipping service clearly show decided increase in recommendations for these turfgrasses.

BLUEGRASS ARTICLE BY DR. SCHERY PUBLISHED IN EUROPE

Dr. Schery, upon invitation, prepared for the L. C. Nungesser Company of Darmstadt, Germany, an item entitled "Bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*) as a Lawn-grass."

Something of the history of bluegrass is given, followed by characteristics that make it an outstanding lawn grass (fine texture, growth habit, rhizoming, erect stems). The advantages of some variability in a seed mixture are discussed, including the natural variability that occurs in natural Kentucky bluegrass.

By the same token it is pointed out that seed mixtures based primarily upon Kentucky bluegrass should have Oregon red fescues included. The fine fescues have most of the same attributes as bluegrass that make for a quality species, and strengthen the adaptation of a mixture where both species (rather than one alone) are contained.

This article is being translated into German for publication in North Europe. The English version appeared in the March 1960 issue of The Green Thumb (Colorado Forestry and Horticultural Association Magazine).

STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND WANTS TURFGRASS DATA

An inquiry from the Strategic Air Command has been referred to the Institute which is concerned now with turfgrass plantings on its installations throughout the world. They are hoping for "advice which will help us round out a successful program." This includes collection of every available bit of literature or advice.

BLUEGRASS AS "WINTER GRASS" IN THE SOUTH

Institute members will not want to ignore the possibility of greater use of northern grasses in the South, as "winter grass." The Institute has initiated some investigation of this problem, sending samples of Oregon fescues and Kentucky bluegrass to some of the southern Advisors, for experimental plantings in bermudagrass. There are certain advantages to the quality northern species over ryegrass, in that they are less aggressive, and even if they do survive spring "change over" they are of a finer texture acceptable as a part of the bermudagrass turf.

Indicative of this interest in winter grass use, is the statement made by Dr. D. F. McAllister, Head of the Agronomy Department, University of Arizona at Tucson. This statement was made in an article written for the Seedsmen's Digest, January, 1959: "In southern areas where winter lawns are grown, bermudagrass lawns may be renovated in the fall and overseeded with ryegrass, bluegrass or even some of the bentgrasses without damage to the bermuda, which will grow vigorously again the following spring."

INSTITUTE RECEIVES TURFGRASS FOUNDATION INVITATION

The non-profit "Illinois Turfgrass Foundation, Inc.," dedicated towards sponsoring further turfgrass research in the state, primarily through the University of Illinois Horticulture Department and its branches, has invited the Lawn Institute to join as a charter member.

PURDUE STUDENT RESEARCHES BLUEGRASS

Itura Shiotani, a graduate student at Purdue University, under his presentation, "The Genus of Bluegrass", given at the 1959 Turf Conference, points out the extreme diversity found within the natural Kentucky bluegrass species. Some plants can contain as many as nine times the number of chromosomes found in other plants of the same species (a very unusual condition for any species). Chromosomes are, of course, the hereditary units visible in plant cells. Of course the Purdue researchers intend to cross-breed different bluegrasses, hoping to arrive at something more "perfect" than nature has been able to come up with.

FERTILIZER REPORT ON NITROGEN LOSS

A report by Kresge and Stachell, in the February issue of the Agronomy Journal relates to nitrogen loss from urea-based fertilizers.

The paper supports previous investigations that as much as one fourth or more of the nitrogen from an applied fertilizer might be lost as ammonia gas. Loss is greater on alkaline soils (pH 7 or greater), especially when these become dry and the ammonia (fertilizer) is near the surface. Less active soils (those mostly sandy or devoid of organic materials) lose fertility more readily than clays and organic soils. In the tests, losses from urea fertilizer were much greater than

from ammonium nitrate or ammonium sulphate. When a grass cover was maintained, losses were far less than with bare soil. The report states:

"Maximum loss from 300 pounds of nitrogen per acre of urea topdressed on heavy grass cover was 7% as compared to 23% from bare soil."

Of course this is an unusually heavy rate of fertilization, and with conventional applications to a complete lawn turf, there should normally be very little loss (even when soils are dry and alkaline).

DR. SCHERY AIDS IN PREPARATION OF THE PRACTICAL GARDENER

Dr. Schery provided the lawn text for the 1960 Edition of House Beautiful's Practical Gardener. Photographs provided by the Institute were used (one received a credit line) and Dr. Schery was given a byline on one article.

Members and associates of the Institute are being provided copies of the publication as a service of the Institute.

ADM UNVEILS NEW IDEA IN FERTILIZERS

Archer-Daniels-Midland, Minneapolis, has a new idea in fertilizers, and licensing for the process is to be given to "a major nitrogen producer". Apparently trial marketing will first be undertaken next fall, with coated prills.

To review this new fertilizer idea, here is the story. A.D.M. proposes a new approach for "slow-release" forms of fertilizer, more economical than the present polymerization of urea with formaldehyde, to give a large molecule which breaks down slowly in the soil. Instead of building complexity into the molecule, conventional fertilizer pellets are used, but these are coated with a resinous material which is slowly broken down in the soil for gradual release of the coated fertilizer particles. Conceivably different thicknesses or types of coating could be used, with mechanical blending of the different sorts to follow, to yield a fertilizer that might yield its nutrients according to any schedule desired. However, for economic reasons, it is understood that only a single batching will be done, but that in the batching drums some prills will gain heavier coatings than others, and yield a product capable of prolonged fertility release. Presumably there will be slow release immediately after application, which builds up to a high crescendo intensity during the hot weather of summer, then tapers off gradually as some of the pellets bearing the heavier coatings finally break down.

Until the field trials are completed, there will be rather little definite experience with this new approach. The only thing that can be said for certain is that it should be more economical than with ureaforms. The pelleting process probably won't increase costs more than half again the present price of uncoated fertilizer, which may enable sizable savings over ureaform at present prices.

"This is the first opportunity I have had to acknowledge your letter of January 14 relating to Kentucky bluegrass. The nomenclature used in our crop reports is established largely by the Crops Research Division of the Agricultural Research Service, and the Federal Seed Act. Officials in these Agencies refer to the parent species of Kentucky bluegrass as common Kentucky bluegrass. They prefer this description to other suggestions such as natural, ordinary, Kentucky bluegrass and other bluegrass.

"Two recent publications -- the Home and Garden Bulletin No. 51, issued in March, 1957 and revised in September, 1959, and a leaflet titled Establishment and Care of Merion Bluegrass Lawns, both make reference to Common Kentucky bluegrass. In view of this and the official preferences we will have to use the 'common' designation in our seed reports. However, we will discuss this matter further and we will let you know if there are any new developments."

T. J. Kuzelka
Head of Seed Section
U. S. Dept. of Agriculture

"Tests at the experiment station (Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station, Wooster) indicate that the bluegrasses and red fescues alone or together generally make better sods than when ryegrass, redtop or other grasses are used with them.

"Kentucky bluegrass is the 'Old Faithful' of the grass kingdom. It best fits the needs of the average lawn. With moderate fertilization and high mowing, it will make a satisfactory lawn with little effort. One of the red fescues may be used in a mixture with bluegrass. Red fescue should be 70 to 80 per cent of the mixture in shaded areas. Never use bentgrass in a mixture where bluegrass is the grass you wish to dominate. Even a small amount of bentgrass will take over completely in a few years.

"Rye grass and red top are quick growing temporary grasses. It is usually better to leave them out of a mixture. Ryegrass may be seeded in late spring or early summer to serve as a temporary lawn until permanent grass is seeded in September. The rye grass must be torn up and a good seedbed prepared if the permanent seeding is to be successful.

"In the experimental plots at Wooster, Merion bluegrass was outstandingly superior to all others. But, Prof. R. R. Davis explained, soil and growing conditions at Wooster are ideal for this type of grass. Soil and climate conditions are different in the Cincinnati area. Where grown, it doesn't show off to like advantage. In our test plots at The Center, Delta bluegrass and common Kentucky bluegrass look better."

Bulletin, Garden Center of Greater
Cincinnati
October 15, 1959

CANADIANS REPORT ON TURF RESEARCH

The Plant Research Institute, of the Canada Department of Agriculture, has just initiated a publication entitled "Greenhouse, Garden, Grass". Volume 1, Number 1, bears a January, 1960 publication date.

In this first issue, J. H. Boyce reports upon "Turf Research at the Central Experimental Farm". In the article he points out the extent of past research, and plans for the future. A position is taken against inclusion of nursegrasses, and for the three major permanent species (Kentucky bluegrass, creeping red fescue and Colonial bentgrass). Boyce considers it unfortunate that so many Canadian lawns are seeded to mixtures of timothy and alsike.

He says: "A test was laid down in 1947 to determine the minimum quantity of standard turf species (bluegrasses, fescues and bentgrasses), necessary to produce a satisfactory turf when added to this mixture. Another purpose of this test was to determine whether other coarse, cheap grasses such as tall fescue, meadow fescue and perennial ryegrass could be used in place of timothy in such mixtures. Neither tall nor meadow fescue have produced satisfactory turf either alone or in mixtures, but meadow fescue gave somewhat better results than tall fescue."

Boyce points out that the Norlea variety of perennial ryegrass has given good performance, better than the general run of perennial ryegrass. He also finds Pennlawn fescue outstanding, and Merion bluegrass (although this is considered too expensive). Further tests are underway on fertilization practices, response of different grasses under differing conditions of wear, weed control, etc.

QUALITY LAWN GRASS JOURNAL ARTICLE'S THEME

"Quality Lawn Grass," by Dr. Schery, appears in the March issue of the New York Botanical Garden. The story is illustrated by two pictures furnished by the Oregon Fine Fescue Commission and one by the Lawn Institute.

The article emphasizes that a consumer need only know what few grasses are the proven performers for his climate and conditions . . . he then can look to the ingredient listing required on the box or sack, to see if the star performers constitute most (if not all) of the mixture. North from Tennessee, these are especially the Kentucky bluegrasses and the Oregon red fescue varieties (Chewings, Illahee, Pennlawn, Ranier).

NEW BRECK LAWN SEED BOOKLET FAVORS INSTITUTE RECOMMENDATIONS

The new Breck lawn seed booklet by James Shiels contains practically all the recommendations advocated by the Lawn Institute.

It lists the kinds of things that should be done for a bluegrass-red fescue mixture. This is another example of how an associate member's seed house is promoting quality lawn seed mixtures containing a heavy proportion of these grasses.

The Institute salutes Breck for their nicely done booklet.

MASSACHUSETTS TURFGRASS CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Here is a summary of the Massachusetts Turfgrass Conference, held in Amherst, March 11.

Dr. William Colby stressed the need for saving topsoil in Massachusetts, where there is none too much, and where subsoils are very poor.

Dr. R. E. Engel's talk on "Pre-emergence Chemicals for the Control of Crabgrass" reflected newer research findings than most other topics. Engel stressed that very little was known about the after effects of pre-emergence chemicals. He had some evidence this year at Rutgers of an arsenical (PAX) damaging turf several years after application. Engel feels this could happen with almost any pre-emergence chemical, although he regards the arsenicals as perhaps the most dangerous, and chlordane the least, in this respect.

In reviewing pre-emergence chemicals tested in recent years, he rules out Alanap for poor longevity, and Neburon because it is light sensitive. Both of these can also burn desirable turf.

Lead arsenate has proven inadequate in his tests at 25 pounds per M; yet he is afraid to use higher rates, for fear of burn and soil contamination. Neither lead arsenate nor calcium arsenate have proven as sure as he would like to see, varying in results with moisture changes, phosphorus content of the soil, pH, and so on.

One year chlordane gave good crabgrass control at only 40 pounds active ingredient per acre. Yet Engel is inclined to think nearer 80 pounds should be the usual recommendation. He has not found chlordane quite so effective as most of the other chemicals. He has had one disappointing application of the liquid material, so leans to granular applications. He feels that treatment very much ahead of crabgrass season will have the chlordane leach below the soil surface and become less effective. In addition to crabgrass, chlordane has controlled goosegrass with him.

On the newer chemicals, Dacthal (Diamond Alkali) and Zytron (Dow), he has not the depth of experience as with the other chemicals, but considers both of them very promising. In particular he likes the economy they promise (10 to 15 pounds per acre of Dacthal has proven adequate, and 20 pounds of Zytron), and the fact that they disappear in the soil within a few weeks, allowing seeding. With such chemicals there should be less chance of toxic build-up than with some of the long lasting types.

Dr. Schery was also a featured speaker at the conference with "Grasses and Grass Mixtures for New England Lawns" as his topic. In his talk, he pointed out a good lawn mixture for New England lawns should certainly contain both Kentucky bluegrass and some of the Oregon fescues. For shade plantings, the fescues

might well constitute the larger percentage; for good soils and open areas, the bluegrass might predominate.

NEWSPAPERS ASSISTED BY INSTITUTE IN PREPARATION OF LAWN ARTICLES

Dr. Schery was asked to supply information to Joseph E. McMahon, of the New York Times, for an article in the financial section, showing the importance of lawn seed and a little information about its seasonal use.

Photographs were sent to Providence Journal for Institute line credit with a lawn grass article authored by Dr. Skogley of Rhode Island which highlights the blue-grasses and fine-leaf fescues, and discourages the use of bentgrass and hay-grasses in lawn mixtures.

Gloria Gould, Home and Garden Editor for the Boston Traveler, was sent a sequence of four Institute photographs, for line credit, to head up their spring garden section. A custom item on summer care, for the May issue, has been requested from Dr. Schery.

SEED TECHNOLOGIST SUGGESTS MORE TESTING RESEARCH

Miss Alma L. Everard, Chief Seed Technologist, Vaughan's Seed Company, Chicago, after receiving a copy of Dr. Schery's presentation ("Features and Futures in Lawn Seed") to the Minneapolis Association of American Seed Control Officials Convention, has commented as follows:

"Your presentation was excellent and should have been well received. The points considering regional and annual variations were points not brought up at the meeting last spring and merit consideration and a great deal more research. Dr. Everson's mistake was in believing it possible to use one yardstick for all lots of bluegrass. For years the seedsmen have been complaining about the lack of uniformity between laboratories so it is understandable that Dr. Everson should think that of primary importance. Sometimes the cure is worse than the disease.

"As was said before we are all in this together and must try to work it out together. The unfortunate part is that no stained samples have been distributed so that we have been unable to try out the method for ourselves. The time now is too short to really accomplish anything. Apparently we are expected to accept blindly the work done by others. No matter how reliable that is the seedsmen will not be satisfied until their own laboratories have had the opportunity to work with the method."

PARK ADMINISTRATORS HEAR DR. SCHERY

Grass in your park's future? There should be more and better, Dr. Schery told delegates to the 14th Annual Great Lakes Park Training Institute at Pokagon, Illinois on February 24.

Kentucky bluegrasses and lawn fescues were recommended for the Northern section of the country.

Reprints copies of Dr. Schery's Scholastic Coach article, "The Best Turf for Athletic Fields" were handed out to 300 park administrators representing 22 states and 5 Canadian provinces.

STERLING FOREST PLANTS NATURAL KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS MIXTURE

A recent widely-mailed release on turfgrass plantings at Sterling Forest, the new display grounds near New York City, indicated that one of our associate members' "classic" seed mixture was employed. Our information indicates "classic" to consist of about 80% natural and Delta bluegrass, 15% Merion. Of the 80% (indistinguishable seeds) natural type bluegrass accounts for all except about 9%, and is derived largely from Midwestern "sources".

CLIMAX BLOWING CONTROVERSY CONTINUES

At the recent Executive Committee meeting in Kansas City, an Iowa member asked for a summarization concerning harm to the industry from the climax testing for mailing to appropriate officials in Iowa.

You will be interested in an observation noted by Seed Technology; and comments advanced by Mrs. Louisa A. Jensen, in charge of the Cooperative Seed Testing Laboratory at Oregon State College.

Last October, Seed Technology blowers were calibrated with a stained bluegrass sample issued from Ames, designed to establish the correct climax blowing point. Tests based upon this setting constituted the basis for our report to the Seed Control Officials in Minneapolis in November.

In late February, using the same stained sample to again calibrate the blower, it has been found in a spot check that some of October's tests now run as much as an additional 5% lower. This is with the same blower, the same samples, handled by the same technicians. Evidently the stained sample for setting the climax blowing point has picked up moisture and weight while standing in the laboratory through the winter. If the present tests were to be binding, lots of seed suffering a 6 point purity differential from climax in October, would not exhibit a 10 or 11 point loss! If this holds true generally, it is a serious flaw in the much-heralded claim for "uniformity" the climax method!

That not all A.O.S.A. analysts are oblivious to the insufficiently worked out influences of climax, is revealed in an informative letter from Louisa Jensen, of Oregon State College. Mrs. Jensen raised several practical points with the Study Committee, on a number of sensitive questions for which there seems to be little definitive research. She points out that Oregon is not "against" climax (or any other method), simply "for" any method that can "accurately reflect quality of all individual lots, maintain uniformity, and save time". Mrs. Jensen is not yet convinced that the climax method does that equitably. We quote a paragraph from her letter:

"In our conversations here at the laboratory, we have gone over the many ramifications of the climax blowing point both pro and con until we are dizzy. As you may have heard we have raised many questions concerning this method. In your letter you question whether this method will accurately represent the individual lots and the adequacy of the research on which the method is based. We also raised these questions before the method was adopted. In addition to these questions we also raised questions such as a means of maintaining uniformity between laboratories by referent samples; development and distribution of calibration samples including length of service expected from each, recalibration, etc.; financing the distribution of samples; financing the system of referee; and mechanization that would be required to maintain uniformity. We also asked about year to year variation, area to area variation, effect of factors such as air pressure, humidity, voltage, moisture content of the seed lots, response of groated seed and multiple florets to the calibration point. We have also sent to the committee some data which raises questions in our own minds concerning the use of this method. However, in every instance, it has been pointed out that there are greater differences between laboratories using the official method than we have demonstrated with our data on the climax method."

We thought you would be interested in these comments by an experienced and highly respected analyst; out of courtesy to Mrs. Jensen, it would be inappropriate to quote her out of context without first securing assent.

BETTER TURFGRASS MIXTURES BEING ADVOCATED

The Rhode Island recommendation for the summer of 1959, which will no doubt pertain to 1960 as well, eliminated bentgrass from the recommended mixtures:

Mixture number 1 contained 50% of one of the Oregon improved varieties of red fescue, 25% Kentucky bluegrass, and 25% Merion bluegrass.

Mixture number 2 contained 40% of the Oregon fescue variety, 30% natural Kentucky bluegrass, 10% Merion bluegrass and 20% annual ryegrass.

The added precaution is given to eliminate the nursegrass (ryegrass) if mixture number 2 is to be used in spring or autumn. We also quote from this bulletin 5-A: "When planted alone the basic grasses such as Chewings fescue, Kentucky bluegrass or Merion bluegrass, or Colonial bent, are not as satisfactory as in mixtures and may be susceptible to injury from diseases. Therefore, a pure planting of any of these individual basic lawn grasses is not recommended --."

This May, 1959 "Turf Maintenance Tips", by J. A. DeFrance, follows in general the Institute's policy for recommending quality turfgrasses and cautioning against the use of poor quality mixtures.

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING . . . ABOUT THE INSTITUTE AND QUALITY
LAWN GRASSES . . .

" -- it is interesting to note that research at University of California's Davis Campus indicates Kentucky bluegrass is capable of sending out live roots to a depth of almost 4 feet. Bent and fescue will root to 2 feet and bermuda feeds below 6 feet on uniform soil. This, by the way, is on turf plots mowed between 1/2 and 1-1/2 inches depending on the grass."

C. G. Wilson
before the Sixth Annual Arizona
Turf Conference
October, 1959

" -- spring planting of grass seed mixtures, the incorporation of fertility materials immediately prior to seeding is superior to applying the fertilizer materials two weeks earlier. This observation is supported by the fact that the broad leaved weeds and crabgrass although common to both blocks got quite a head start on the desirable lawn grasses where the fertilizer materials were incorporated into the seedbed two weeks prior to seeding time."

Rhode Island Agricultural Experiment
Station Researchers
in Park Maintenance
May, 1959

"We will make good use of the reprints on athletic field turfgrass mailed recently at the request of Mr. Roy Edwards.

"His thoughtfulness and your courtesy in sending us this material are appreciated."

Lewis H. Brotherson
Board of Education
Kansas City, Kansas

"Thank you ever so much for your prompt reply to my request for a suitable picture for our annual Home & Garden Section."

Gloria Gould
Home & Garden Editor
Boston Herald and Traveler
Boston, Massachusetts

"Thanks for the reprints on turf. I appreciate your sending them. I enjoyed the talk you gave at Massachusetts last week. It was a pleasure to hear someone who could stand up and speak after being bored by the humdrum of the preceding morning."

Winston A. Way
Extension Agronomist
University of Vermont

"I failed to get copies of the bulletins you passed out at the Amherst meetings last week. If your supply permits, please send me a copy of each.

"I would like to compliment you on your discussion of various grasses and their adaptation to the Northeast. You certainly did a good job in practical terms of putting the different species in proper perspective.

"It was certainly a pleasure to get to know you better at the Massachusetts Turf Conference."

Thomas R. Cox, Manager
Plant Nutrient Development
American Cyanamid Company
New York, New York

"Thank you so much for your prompt attention to my request for information on lawns and lawn seed.

"We thoroughly enjoyed your booklet 'Lawns - Their Making and Keeping' in addition to the wealth of booklets and pamphlets you sent. And found those and your excellent letter containing statistics on grass seed a great help in our report compilation.

"We have already thanked Bill Heckendorn for referring us to you and wish to thank you again for your kind interest and assistance."

Mrs. A. F. Boddicker
Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette
New York, New York

"Less leaf spot is likely to show up in lawns in Kentucky bluegrass and red fescue in the spring and summer, if the fertilizer is applied in the fall rather than in the spring. This report is based upon three years of research by U.S.D.A. agronomists at Beltsville, Maryland.

"Fertilizing in the spring forces the grass into rapid growth, and the tender plants are more susceptible to leaf spot in hot weather --.

"The best way to fertilize Kentucky bluegrass and red fescue lawns is to apply

half in September and half in October, the agronomists say. This procedure will strengthen the plants without producing excess top growth."

Crops & Soils
February, 1960

"The Florists' Telegraph Delivery Ass'n. has been conducting a national flower election. The results are about as expected, especially by those who contend it was scarcely a disinterested poll. Of 1,055,629 ballots, the rose claims 386,841; carnation second with 171,591; chrysanthemum, third with 75,729 and lily-of-the-valley next scoring 60,033. Black-eyed Susan was 9th; goldenrod, 13th; grass 18th; corn tassel 19th and marigold 20th with 10,841 votes. We genuflect to those brave souls who had the temerity to go into a florists shop and vote for goldenrod, grass or corn tassel. Others in the also ran class are orchid, tulip, gladiolus, camellia, mountain laurel, geranium (do you suppose peralgonium is meant), magnolia, rhododendron, daffodil, peony, shasta daisy, with 30,093 votes spread elsewhere."

The Horticultural Newsletter
February 22, 1960

"This is quite a long list and I surely do not want you to deplete your supply should some be getting low. I am going to mount reprints and papers such as these on plywood panels for use in dealer window displays and also for use near the dealers shelves of quality grass seeds, fertilizers and lawn equipment. I am also toying with the idea of a window display at our local Chamber of Commerce.

"If it is possible I want to set up some Do It Yourself test plots of different grass seedings together with demonstrations of correct and incorrect lawn fertilizing, mowing and watering and of some plots on which I can do some weed control work. At the Albany city hall I am known as Mr. Weed because for the past three years I have been hammering away at our city council to get them to permit adoption of a chemical weed control program rather than to wait until September or October of each year and have a few firemen do a mighty poor job of flame burning, which is not weed abatement at all.

"Your fine letter of February 10 and enclosure of two new reprints has just come. Your letter, I should say your letters and the contents of the papers you have sent me have given my morale a great boost and I very much appreciate your kindness."

Stanley Wilkins
Board of Trustees
Albany, California

"Thank you so much for presenting such an informative and interesting talk at our Great Lake Institute. -- We hope you can return next year."

Garrett G. Eppley
Chairman, Department of Recreation
Indiana University

"We would appreciate receiving, for our Landscape In-Service Training, representative pieces of literature on turf.

"We also hope that we can avail ourselves next season, sometime between November and March of your very valuable knowledge on turf.

"We will be happy to arrange our schedule to fit a time when you might be in Chicago anyway.

"Again, I want to congratulate you on your recent talk at Pokagon."

John A. Lundgren
Supervisor, In-Service Training
Chicago Park District

"On our Ruth Lyons 50-50 Club telecasts we are attempting to not only promote our Triple Purpose Lawn Seed which as you know is 100% perennial mix with a very high bluegrass content. We want to show people that a pound of this type of mixture will go, in many cases, 4 or 5 times as far as the coarse grasses."

Dwight Brown
McCullough Seed Company
Cincinnati, Ohio

"We enjoyed your interesting talk on 'The Grass in Your Parks' Future', as given by you at our most recent G.L.P.T.I. at Pokagon."

Thomas H. Jones, Commissioner
Department of Public Properties
Cleveland, Ohio

"Thank you for your kind letter February 10 and copy of 'The Best Turf for Athletic Fields'.

"This is indeed interesting, and we shall most certainly make reference to it in a future issue of Parks & Sports Grounds.

"Please continue to mail your releases to us."

K.S.H. Clarke
Parks & Sports Grounds
Surrey, England

A Vote for Bluegrass

It is not only for sod that Kentucky bluegrass makes an excellent orchard cover. True, bluegrass does spread underground stems called rhizomes which gradually enlarge the colony into an extremely durable, intertwined turf, preventing scarcely a bit of soil to wash away.

But equally valuable is the great "common sense" of Kentucky bluegrass -- its characteristic habit of taking things easy when the going gets hot. Bluegrass lies dormant through the hot dry midsummer.

Dr. Aubrey Hibbard, University of Missouri, points out how valuable this attribute is in such troublesome, middle-latitude climates as occur in Missouri. Here, cycles of drought alternate with abundant moisture, and never is there assurance that ample rainfall will prevail all of any summer. Consequently, for those apple and peach orchards scattered through the rolling Missouri hills, fruit growers want assurance that what is anchoring their soil will not also be lowering fruit yields by drawing upon vital topsoil moisture which keeps the trees growing green.

Hibbard points out that even in 1958, after a season of unusually abundant rainfall, the deeper soil layers had not been replenished of moisture exhausted by trees during the drought a few years back. It takes years and years for abundant top-side moisture to seep through the clays and loess, replenishing the deep underground reserves. Consequently, orchard growth during abundance or scarcity of rainfall may have to depend on the upper soil for moisture.

Hibbard doesn't want cover grass transpiring this moisture to the air when the orchard trees are in need. The normal summer dormancy of bluegrass anytime the weather gets hot and dry fits orchard needs. With one or two mowings per year, it will keep most weeds in check, outgrowing them when conditions are favorable, out-foxing them when drought threatens. - Robert W. Schery, Director, Better Lawn & Turf Institute, Marysville, Ohio.

... Excerpts from American Fruit Grower

* AN EDITORIAL *

Keep Going - Keep Growing

Two years ago while soliciting the Better Lawn and Turf Institute account for Bozell and Jacobs, Inc., one of the major questions was, "What is the future of the Institute ... what can be done to keep it going -- keep it growing?"

In the intervening time, much has been accomplished and a lot remains yet to be done.

The Institute has most certainly received the widest publicity in its history. Institute recommendations in behalf of quality turfgrasses (natural Kentucky bluegrass and the Oregon Fine Fescues, in particular) have appeared in numerous magazine and newspaper articles, in the "Your Lawn" cartoon panel series and in the Encyclopedia Britannica TV series. An increasing number of personal appearances by Dr. Schery ... the production and distribution of the Institute film, "Bluegrass Beauty", have told and retold the same story to an ever-increasing audience.

The Institute has taken a definite stand on the climax testing issue ... made recommendations for consideration of a seal of quality to be awarded where packagers merit it on the basis of performance.

The Oregon Fescue Commission joined ranks with the Institute to further promote their Oregon grown fescues ... a strong Associate member group was formed ... the Institute activities have expanded into marginal areas in the continuing search for new fields, new uses and new adaptations of quality turf grasses.

These are highlights of what has been undertaken and accomplished in just two short years.

But what next? The increased publicity for the Institute and more visitors to the Director's headquarters in Marysville, Ohio have brought into focus the fact that the Institute now has immediate need for more organized grounds, including exhibition test plots, more tending equipment, more buildings, all to bring to actual life the Institute to all who wish to come into physical contact with us.

This is the time to keep going ... keep growing. It is suggested that every possible favorable consideration be given to expanding the Institute's facilities into its final form as a showplace befitting the national organization it is.

Wayne Beavers