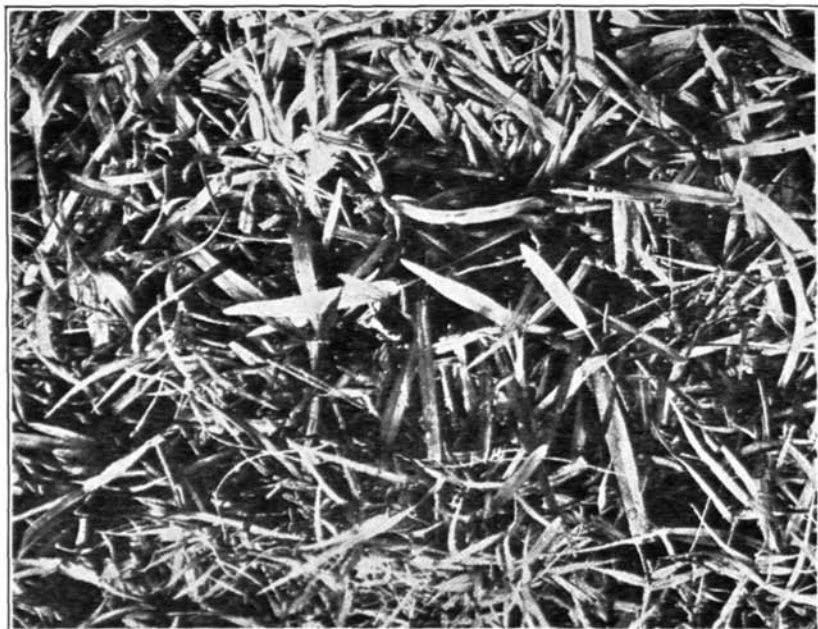


Carpet Grass

C. V. PIPER

Carpet grass is the best of all grasses in the South for fairways. It makes a dense, uniform turf even on pure sands, and the leaves are stiff enough so that the ball is always well off the ground. The only other grass to compete with it is Bermuda; but under conditions where both



A sod of carpet grass, showing the dense turf it forms.

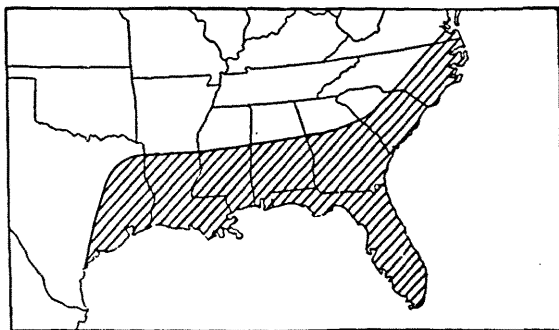
will grow, carpet grass makes far superior turf. The adaptations of carpet grass are not quite so wide as those of Bermuda. The latter will grow farther north, and furthermore will thrive on sandy soils too dry for carpet grass, which requires a rather large supply of moisture. Perhaps the wisest thing to do on a new course in the carpet-grass area is to seed the fairways to a mixture of carpet grass and Bermuda. If the former will thrive it will completely dominate the Bermuda. The rapidity with which carpet grass spreads is surprising. In May, 1921, the fairways of the Cape Fear Country Club, at Wilmington, N. C., which were covered with a thin turf of Bermuda, were seeded with carpet grass without plowing. By November 1 the carpet grass covered all the lower ground with a dense turf, and the highest ground was about half covered. Without doubt, all the fairways will be solid carpet grass before the end of next season.

Carpet grass is a West Indian plant which was accidentally introduced at New Orleans prior to 1832, when specimens were collected by Drummond. It has now spread to nearly the whole area shown on the accompanying map.



Carpet grass, *Axonopus compressus* (Swartz) Schlechtendahl. A, Entire plant; B, junction of blade and sheath, showing the structure of the ligule; C, branch with five spikelets, enlarged.

It is really distinguished by the compressed two-edged stems, the blunt leaf-tips, and the small flowers in two, three or four branched heads. These characteristics are important, as various broad-leaved grasses are known in the South by the general term "carpet grass." Under favorable conditions a single plant of carpet grass will form a circle as much as six feet in diameter, each runner several feet long.



Map of the southern United States, showing the distribution of carpet grass.

Carpet grass seed of good quality is now abundant on the market. Most of it is harvested in Mississippi, but supplies come also from Australia. For pastures it is customary to seed at the rate of 10 pounds per acre, but for fairways we would recommend 20 to 30 pounds per acre. Carpet grass requires a firm seed bed and grows splendidly if sown on clean, unplowed land. Where sandy soil on fairways is too loose for carpet grass, heavy rolling will so change it that the carpet grass will thrive.

Over most of its area, carpet grass remains green all year except in unusually cold periods in winter. It is not affected by frosts so heavy that Bermuda grass is turned white.

Lime apparently has no effect on carpet grass, and its use for this grass is not warranted.

Carpet grass is not a good putting-green grass, being rather too coarse. As it seeds abundantly in the rough, more or less seeds find their way to putting-greens. It is best to cut out plants that appear in the putting-green and replace with fine turf.

Dear Chauncey Letter II

HAZELWOOD FLATS, IND., December 1, 1921.

DEAR CHAUNCEY:

Why get so hot about the few kickers in your club? They do not represent anything—not even themselves. It's a poor waste of time to pay any attention to them. You know when you are right and when you are wrong or half wrong. Just be right yourself, so you can go to a show-down any time.

It seems funny for me to be reversing the batting order by giving you advice; and while I freely admit your rank as an amateur greenkeeper, I insist that when it comes to mental poise or balance you must let me get under the spotlight. If President Harding knew of my tactful, diplomatic disposition he'd have me take charge of several important embassies from some sort of a central office.

Just as long as weeds grow on golf courses there will be kickers. And as soon as you get one set or crop killed off, another will spring up. So don't let them disturb you.