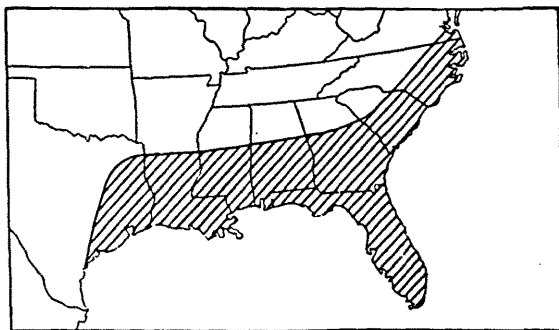


It is really distinguished by the compressed two-edged stems, the blunt leaf-tips, and the small flowers in two, three or four branched heads. These characteristics are important, as various broad-leaved grasses are known in the South by the general term "carpet grass." Under favorable conditions a single 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.

It's getting near the end of the season, and I suppose you'd like to know what I've learned during the year. Well, in the first place, I've learned that green-keeping is a real business and that the expenditure of roughly a third of any club's revenue rests between the chairman of the green and the green-keeper. It certainly is the height of nonsense for any golf club to overlook the fact that the proper treatment and care of its course requires just as much business sense, good management, and special training as the operation of its club-house. You notice that the clubs which do not show a deficit in the operations of their restaurants have some one on the job to see that the work is done right. Those that let the club-house take care of itself run into a deficit every year; and then the poor golf course suffers. Some one ought to start a correspondence school in club management. If I ever get out of my present job I think I'll call myself a club efficiency expert and go around the country at some unholy price per day telling clubs how to cure deficits; all I'll tell them will be to quit being fools and get down to business. Getting back to what I've learned during the year, I'll say I've absorbed a lot of stuff that isn't digested yet, and I suppose a good part will turn sour.

I've learned for keeps that the expert is a faker—*triple A, three-star class I*; and in this day and age if one falls for any expert stuff, he ought to be locked up with the mentally deficient, for sooner or later some one will sell him a half interest in the post office. I wouldn't buy a nickel's worth from a concern that claimed to have a stable of experts, or even one expert. *I'm often them experts now worse than you are!* That's the big lesson; and in learning that I've learned to find out things for myself, so I understand what I am doing—not that I get right every time, but before I start anything I know the facts and the percentage of risk in the proposition. If any mistakes are to be made, I'll make them myself so I'll know them the next time; and I know I can buy seed and supplies enough cheaper so I can afford a few mistakes.

I laid aside the letter at this point, Chauncey, because I had to go out of town. But, Heaven be praised! I saw what I've been looking for—a course built by *experts*, not by common, ordinary experts, but by the kind who concede no equal—the world's greatest, on whose work and works (and those who have been worked) the sun never sets. It was a grand sight, Chauncey; and I had a wonderful afternoon. I don't know where to start to tell you about it. It is so indescribably bad, and you ought to see it.

The place where the fairways ought to be are covered with everything but grass. How in the world any one could gather in one batch so many different kinds of weed seeds is beyond me. And it's a cinch the weed seeds were sold by the experts, because there are varieties of weeds in the fairways that are not known by the oldest inhabitants of the neighborhood. It is going to be harder to get rid of these weeds than it was to do the work.

I saw some big piles of commercial humus that cost \$20 a ton delivered, lying alongside of piles of old rotted manure that cost not over \$2.60 a ton; and if that manure didn't have six times the humus value of the so-called humus, then I'm way off.

Talk about artificial looking work! *I saw it.* There we were up in the hills where one can look in any direction and see how nature would build a bunker. But the expert knew better; so he dug some non-drainable gashes and holes, and made some humps, so that the place looks like a

village dump. All that is needed to complete the picture is the tin cans, broken bottles, and waste paper. Every green the expert put down went bad; so they were plowed up and are being reseeded. And the reason they went bad and *will stay bad* is obvious—poor drainage.

I must go to work now. But let me tell you I never thought I'd live to see the work of a real expert—not a theorist, mind you, but an expert who makes theory and science a servant rather than a master, and who boasts of the refinery in which theory and practice are refined into the pure stuff. There's a sucker born every minute. And the expert will find a fresh field to work on while the poor beggars who are on the course I am telling you about will be working twenty years to clean up the damage the expert did in one.

I know the best of us make mistakes, even though I tell my wife I can't remember back far enough to recall one of my own. But an honest mistake is one thing, even if made by an expert; and rank incompetency is another thing. And fools still rush in where the footing is bad. I wonder how the experts keep up their sucker list!

Yours,

BILL.

The Green Committee of the U. S. Golf Association is always glad to publish items showing how work around courses can best be done.

Questions and Answers

All questions sent to the Green Committee will be answered as promptly as possible in a letter to the writer. The more interesting of these questions, with concise answers, will appear in this column each month. If your experience leads you to disagree with any answer given in this column, it is your privilege and duty to write to the Green Committee.

1. *Our new fairway, seeded in October, 1919, has a light gravelly soil. It was formerly woodland of scrub oak and pine. This fairway is very hard and has a great many bare patches. What treatment do you advise?* J. A. C., Massachusetts.

It will be rather difficult to improve the texture of the soil now that your fairway is seeded. Our advice would be to apply as such fine compost as you can. Under this treatment the fairway should gradually improve, as you are in a section where the fine turf grasses volunteer.

2. *We are sending under separate cover today two cans containing some samples of earth. We have just made a large water hazard by installing a dam at the end of a swamp on our course. The bottom of this swamp is made of vegetable matter which some of our people think would be valuable for covering the greens during the winter to feed the grass. We do not want to take the responsibility of this unless we receive some expert advice that it is satisfactory for this purpose.* H. S. W., Connecticut.

Soil gathered from the bottom of swamps is frequently found to be toxic to grass growth. The presence of toxicity can readily be detected by a test of a sample of the soil with grass seeds. We will perform such a test with your samples when they arrive, but it will be some weeks before the results can be ascertained, as it is necessary to sow grass seed in the samples,