

**Decision.**—The interpretation of Rule 15 is that in taking a stance a player must not deliberately break or bend living objects with a view to improving his swing at the ball.

A player on the 9th hole drove his second shot near the boundary line and played a provisional ball. Before coming to where his first ball lay, without ascertaining whether the first ball was in or out of bounds he played a second shot to the green with the provisional ball. Then finding his original ball was not out of bounds, he played that ball to the green. The provisional ball was over the green and he chipped on to the green with that; then holed out his original ball for a 4; then holed out in 2 more with the provisional ball. One player stated that having played 2 shots with the provisional ball he must continue with that ball and accept the score (8) made with it, and that the original ball was out of play and did not count after he elected to play a second shot with the provisional ball.

**Decision.**—A player is entitled to play shots with the provisional ball only until it is up to or beyond the spot where the first ball is presumed to lie. If the original ball is found in bounds he must play on with it and play no more strokes with the provisional ball.

A ball is sliced by B from the 17th tee to the 10th green. A tree stymies him. He moves his ball off to the right, so he has a clear shot to the hole. He insists he can move to right or left, or back, just so he is not nearer the hole. A insists he must move back on a line between his ball and the hole, keeping the spot where the ball lay between himself and the hole. Who is right?

**Decision.**—If there is no local rule the ball must be played where it lies, under the rules. If there is a local rule, a ball is dropped "near as possible but not nearer the hole." "Near as possible" means a club's length.

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**Defective drainage.**—Often turf will die out in spots on a green or fairway without apparent cause. In nine cases out of ten, however, the cause is defective drainage.

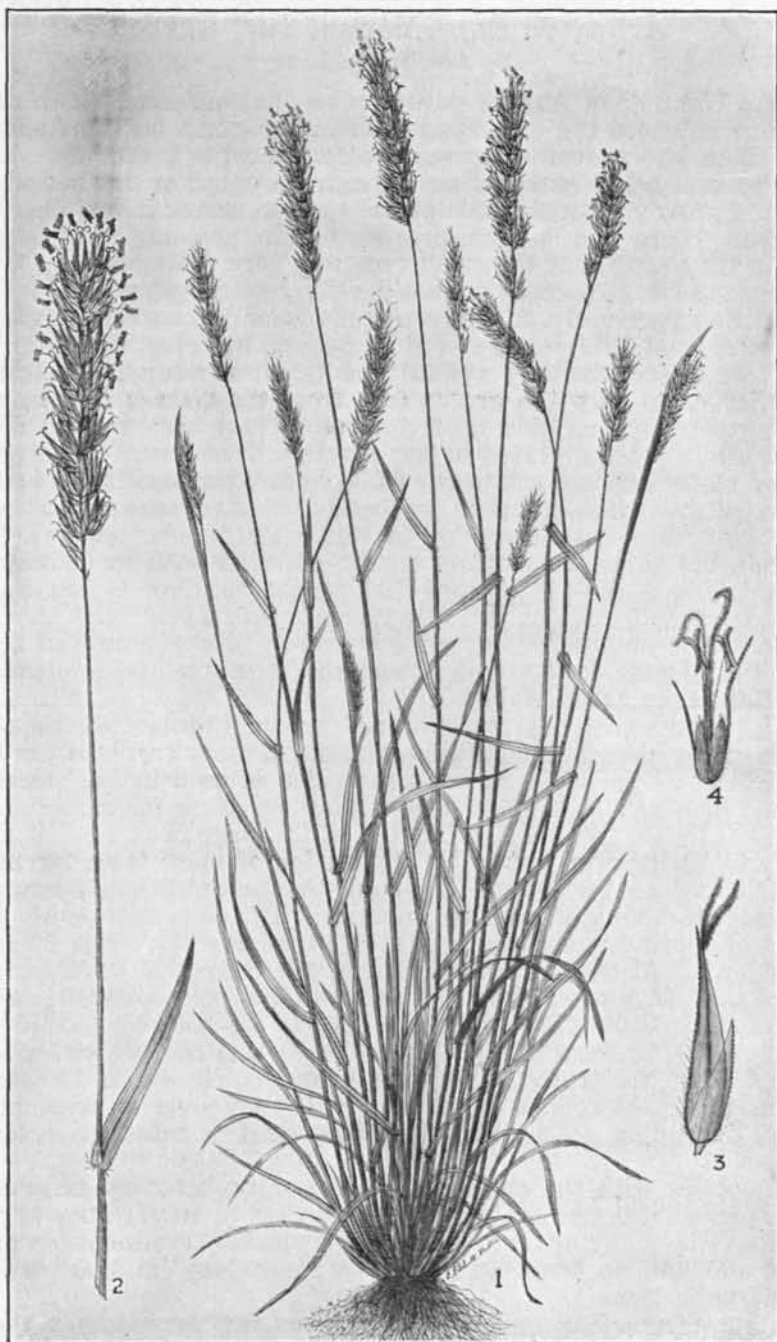
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## Sweet Vernal Grass

By C. V. Piper

Sweet vernal grass is native to the Old World but is abundantly introduced in the northern half of the United States, except in the semiarid regions. The grass is notable for two reasons: First, its sweet odor, resembling that of vanilla, most evident when the grass is cut or when it is ripening; second, its ability to grow and spread on very poor land. On account of its odor many golfers like to have it in the rough. Formerly it was used in meadow mixtures to impart a sweet odor to the hay, but it is bitter to the taste, so that cattle do not like it.

It is a bunch grass in habit and excellent for use in the rough. If mowed when in full bloom it will usually require no other care in the rough. As part of a mixture of grasses for the rough, sweet vernal grass has great merit. Seed of sweet vernal grass is cheap and abundant. For the rough, 25 pounds an acre should be used, if sown alone.



Sweet vernal grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum* Linnaeus): 1, Plant showing habit (about one-third natural size); 2, a panicle (about natural size); 3, a spikelet (much enlarged); 4, a single floret (much enlarged).