

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

All questions sent to the Green Section will be answered in a letter to the writer as promptly as possible. 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 Section.

While most of the answers are of general application, please bear in mind that each recommendation is intended specifically for the locality designated at the end of the question.

**1. *Poa annua*; its behavior and control.**—Are there different strains of *Poa annua* having different habits? Is it ever an annual plant in this latitude under putting conditions? Our greens seem to be about nine-tenths *Poa annua*, yet at no time during the past few years have they ever assumed a patchy appearance, such as would result in case a considerable proportion of this *Poa annua* should die off. In my own experiments with bent turf in its second year, there are clumps of *Poa annua* which at least lived through last summer and are still thrifty, having quite heavy stems and leaves, and its pale green color is a disfiguration in a dark green turf. If *Poa annua* dies off every summer there might be a chance of retarding its germination by a heavy growth of bent grass; otherwise there would seem to be no reasonable way to eradicate it. (New York.)

**ANSWER.**—Northward *Poa annua*, or at least some individual plants, behaves as a perennial, as a single plant will live one or more years, going through the entire summer season. This seems to occur also as far south as Washington, though rarely; where, however, the great majority of the plants behave practically as winter annuals, dying off in the summer. Where *Poa annua* is once thoroughly established we do not know of any method of getting rid of it except by hand-weeding at great expense. If, on the other hand, putting greens are weeded free of it at the beginning they can be kept free of the grass at very little expense for weeding. This has been done at the Old Elm course, near Chicago, and we have done the same thing on our experimental plots near Washington without any difficulty, although *Poa annua* is very abundant here.

**2. Controlling Dallis grass.**—We are troubled with Dallis grass in our fairways and immediately around our greens. This grass is coarser than Bermuda grass and very hard to control with the mowing machine. So far we have found no means of controlling it except digging it up by the roots, which is expensive and otherwise objectionable. (Arkansas.)

**ANSWER.**—In the area in which Dallis grass (*Paspalum dilatatum*) occurs, which is essentially the cotton belt, it is a rather undesirable plant on golf courses. This is true especially on the richer lands of the lower Mississippi Valley. We know of no other way of handling it except by cutting out the plants and as far as possible keeping the grass from forming seed both on and in the neighborhood of the course.