SINCE the close of the World War the growing of fine bent grass for seed has spread rapidly from Germany to New Zealand, Rhode Island, the Maritime Provinces in Canada, the Pacific Northwest, and to New Jersey. The production of fine bent seed was a thriving industry at an earlier period in Rhode Island as well as in much of New England and New York. Much of the acreage of bent harvested for seed at present is found in naturalized stands. Practically pure stands of colonial and creeping bents are frequently found. Naturalized stands of velvet bent are found infrequently and usually consist of mixtures with other bents. The bents, and especially Rhode Island colonial bent, have been planted in Rhode Island for a number of years in order to produce purer seed and larger yields than are usually obtained from naturalized stands.

Redtop early became naturalized in southern Illinois where a large part of the seed is now produced. Fine bents are frequently the dominant grasses in pastures and reverting meadows in the more humid parts of the northern states. They form most beautiful lawns in this region. Almost all putting greens in this territory are composed largely of bent grasses. The various geographic sections of the United States have been found to favor different bent grasses.

There are many new strains of the bent grasses which have been tested during recent years and a variety of superior kinds are now available for the vegetative planting of putting greens or lawns. Growers of bent seed are faced with many problems as they attempt to grow the new strains for seed. Rhode Island farmers have been able to produce satisfactory yields of colonial bents and fair yields of velvet bent, but have had only indifferent success with creeping bent seed production.

LITERATURE CITED

Burlison and others (1) state that redtop in Illinois is a crop that will maintain a stand for a number of years, depending on the fertility of the soil and the use made of the crop. The duration of the stands varied from 3 to 15 years with an average of 6 years. Lime and phosphorus were found to increase markedly both the yield of seed and of hay. The crop was found to mature seed approximately July 15 and to shatter badly after 10 days or more beyond this date. It is recommended that the crop be harvested for seed not later than one week after blooming is completed. Yields of redtop averaged 54 pounds per acre during the period from 1922 to 1932 and varied from an average of 30 pounds per acre in 1925 to 75 pounds in 1927.

1 Contribution from the Department of Agronomy, Rhode Island Agricultural Experiment Station, Kingston, R. I. Also presented at the annual meeting of the Society held in Washington, D. C., November 23, 1934. Published by permission of the Director of Research as Contribution No. 469 of the Rhode Island Agricultural Experiment Station. Received for publication February 16, 1935.

2Assistant Agronomist and Agronomist, respectively.