Breeding Pensacola Bahiagrass, Paspalum notatum:  
I. Method of Reproduction\textsuperscript{1}

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PENSACOLA Bahiagrass has become one of the most popular perennial pasture grasses in Florida and the southern part of the Gulf States. Its persistence, ability to grow on poor soils, excellent seeding habits and ease of establishment are responsible for much of its popularity. It was named by County Agent E. H. Finlayson (9), who found it growing wild in the vicinity of Pensacola, Fla., and concluded that it had been introduced in the ballast dumped on the low land adjacent to the old Perdido Wharf before 1926. The close similarity between Pensacola Bahia and an introduction, P.I. 149,303, received in 1945 suggests that it also originated in the tropics.

Pensacola Bahia is taller, spreads faster, has narrower leaves than common and most other Bahia grass introductions (5). It is more frost resistant and winter-hardy but is also tougher and less palatable than these types. It is more resistant to ergot than any of these other Bahias but is susceptible to Helminthosporium sp. and Rhizoctonia sp. The seeds of Pensacola Bahia are smaller and germinate more readily without scarification than the seeds of the other Bahias but they also shatter much worse. Pensacola Bahia contains 20 somatic chromosomes, whereas all other Bahias examined to date, except introduction (also 2n = 20), have had 40 chromosome number. A breeding program directed toward improving this grass was begun at Tifton, Ga., in the summer of 1941. It is the purpose of this paper to report the findings relative to the breeding behavior of Pensacola Bahiagrass.

\textsuperscript{1}Cooperative investigations at Tifton, Ga., of the Field Crops Research Branch, A.R.S., U.S.D.A., and the University of Georgia Coastal Plain Exp. Sta. Contribution of the Department of Agronomy, University of Georgia Coastal Plain Exp. Sta. Published with the approval of the Resident Director as Journal Series Paper Number 33. Received Feb. 18, 1955.

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