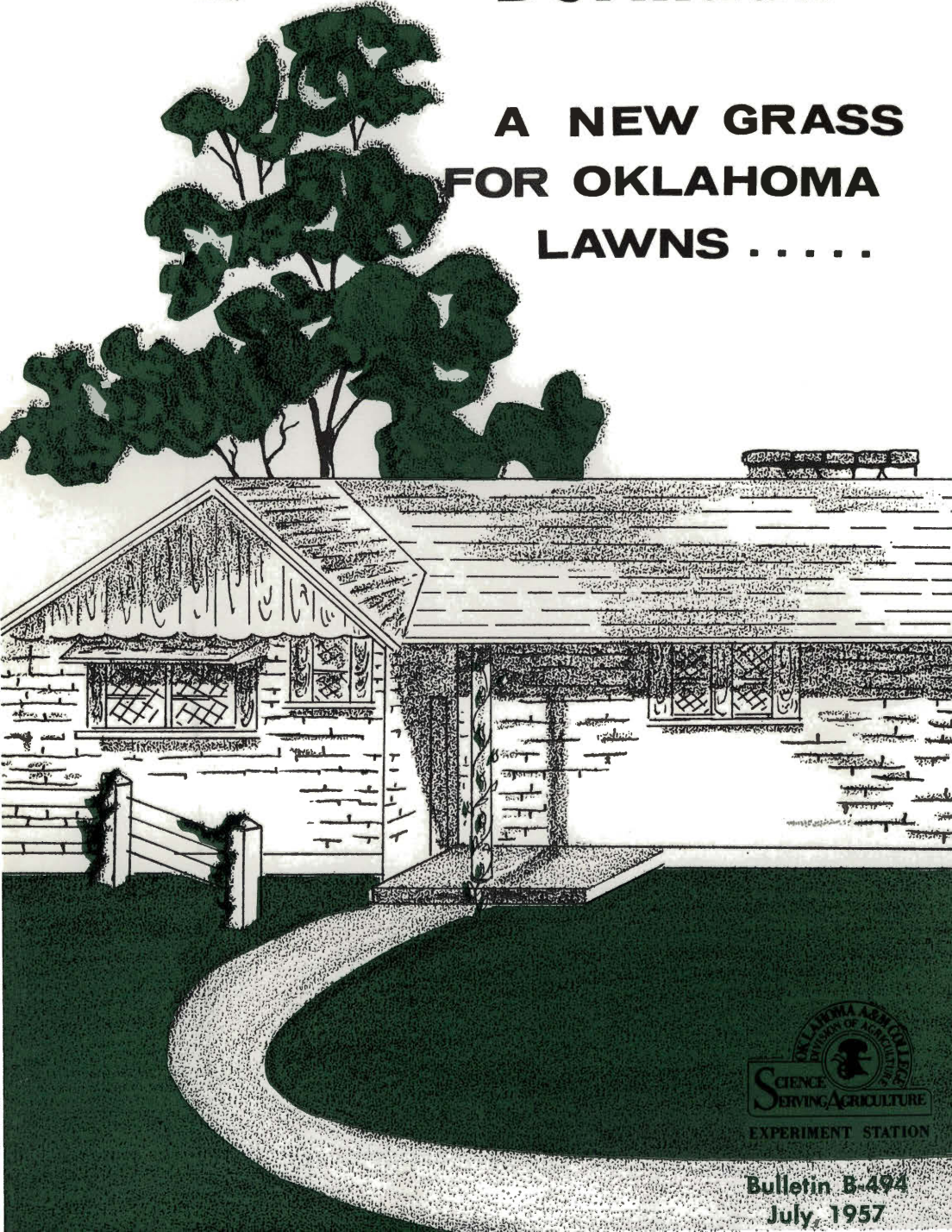


Sunturf

OSU
Collection

Bermuda

A NEW GRASS
FOR OKLAHOMA
LAWNS



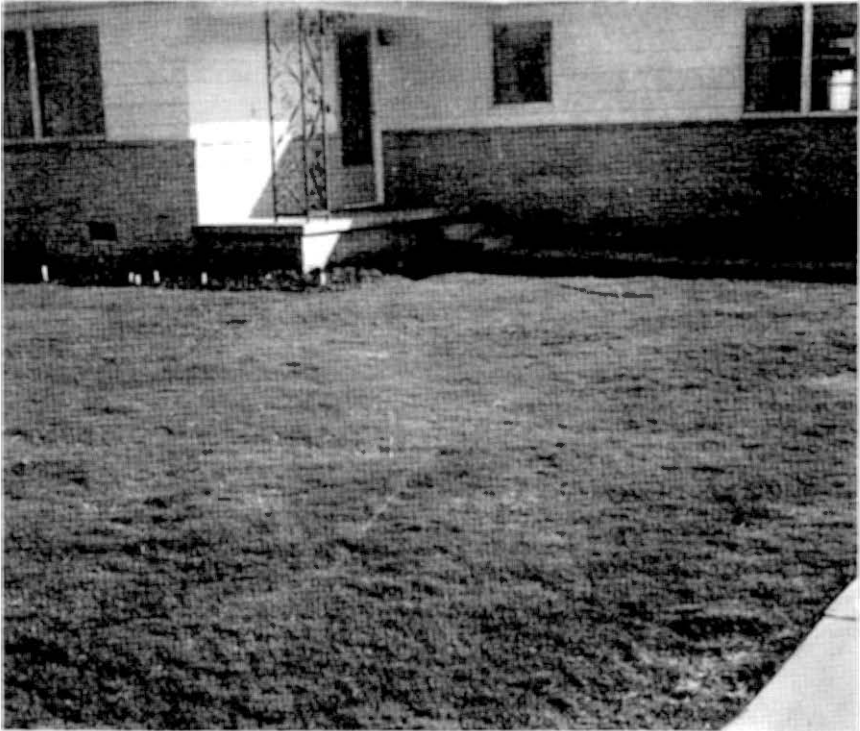
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SUNTURF BERMUDA

A New Grass For Oklahoma Lawns

by
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Sunturf Bermuda, a new turf-type grass for lawns in Oklahoma, is a low growing, dense, fine textured grass, darker green in color than other turf-type bermudas now available. It becomes green about the same time in the spring as other bermudas but remains green about one week later in the fall. A complete ground cover can be obtained in four to eight weeks when it is planted on 12 to 18 inch centers.



Sunturf Bermuda is finer textured and darker green in color than other lawn type bermudas now available. This depth of color adds beauty to the home neighborhood. (Above photo shows a Sunturf Bermuda lawn about 90 days after planting).

The principal means of spread is by above ground runners and it is practically devoid of underground stems commonly found in many other bermudas. This growth habit should make it easier to control and prevent its encroachment into flower beds and similar areas. It is propagated by vegetative parts only as relatively few inconspicuous seed heads are produced and they are believed to be sterile.

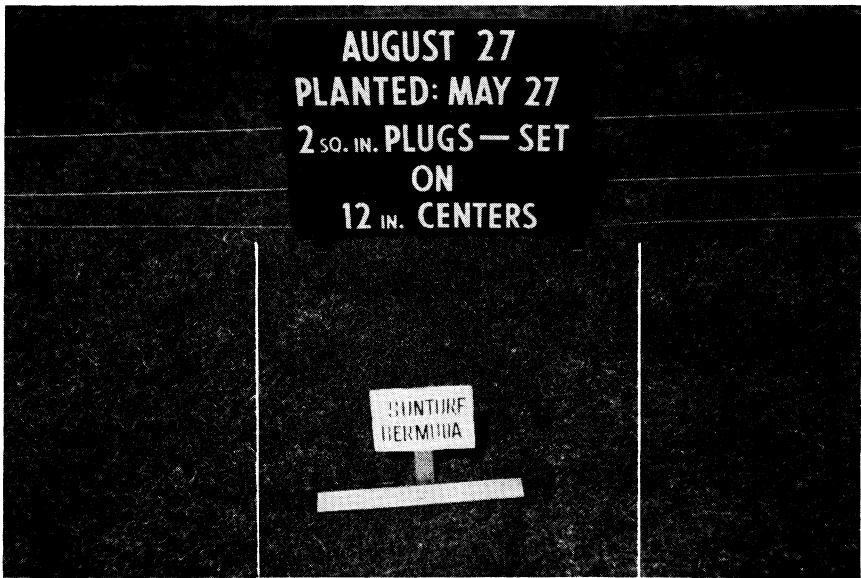
Leaf rust has been observed on Sunturf Bermuda in Oklahoma, but normally it is not believed to be a problem.

The name Sunturf Bermuda refers to its adaptation to areas of full or nearly full sunlight.

Origin:

Sunturf Bermuda's Origin

Sunturf Bermuda was introduced by the United States Department of Agriculture Plant Introduction Section in 1951



Sunturf Bermuda (center) produces a dense, wear tolerant turf. (In the above photo Tiflawn (Tifton 57) bermuda is to the left of Sunturf Bermuda and U-3 bermuda grass is on the right).

under the scientific name of **Cynodon magennisii**, P.I. 184339 from Kimberly, South Africa. It was jointly tested and named by the agricultural experiment stations of Alabama, Arkansas, Oklahoma and South Carolina in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture. Release as a new variety was approved April 1, 1956.

History:

The first scientific record of **Cynodon magennisii** was written by J. W. Mathews and appeared in the Journal of the Botanical Society of South Africa 21 (1935).^{*} It apparently originated from a natural cross of **Cynodon transvaalensis** and **Cynodon dactylon**. Cytological and morphological studies made by Ruth Hurcombe^{**} on this grass showed it to be a hybrid between **C. dactylon** and **C. transvaalensis** with a triploid number of chromosomes and is reproduced by vegetative means only.

Characteristics:

Sunturf Bermuda has a darker green foliage than other bermuda types now available. It has a low habit of growth and is fine textured, similar to **Cynodon transvaalensis** (African bermuda).

The Primary means of spread is by above ground runners (stolons) and it is practically devoid of the deep, below ground stems (rhizomes) commonly found in other bermuda types. This habit of growth should make Sunturf Bermuda easier to control and prevent it from spreading into flower beds and similar areas. The turf which it produces is dense and exhibits considerable tolerance to abuse after it becomes established.

^{*}Cited from a copy of a letter signed by R. E. Altona, Manager, Agricultural Research Department, African Explosives and Chemical Industries, Limited; P. O. Northrand, Transvaal; dated March 19, 1956; written to Howard L. Hyland, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Plant Introduction Section; Beltsville, Maryland.

^{**}Experiments with *Cynodon dactylon* and other species at the South African Turf Research Station. "A Cytological and Morphological Study of Cultivated Cynodon Species." Sec. 2, Chpt. 4, pp 36-48. Published by African Explosives and Chemical Industries Limited and the South African Turf Research Fund; 1948.

Sunturf Bermuda, in three years of testing has withstood temperatures as low as four degrees Fahrenheit in Oklahoma. It greens in the spring about the same time as other bermudas and remains green about a week later in the fall. The considerable drouth tolerance, which this grass does possess, is the main factor in its selection originally. It has also exhibited the ability to withstand heavy wear from foot traffic. Indications are that it can be grown throughout the state when given proper management.

A complete ground cover can be obtained in four to eight weeks when the sprigs or plugs are planted on 12 to 18 inch



Sunturf Bermuda will make a complete ground cover in four to eight weeks when the vegetative parts are planted on 12 to 18 inch centers. Above photo is Sunturf four weeks after planting with two square inch plugs on 12 inch centers.

centers. Very few seed heads are produced and they are inconspicuous. Sunturf Bermuda is planted by vegetative parts (sprigs) only, as the seed heads which are formed are believed to be sterile.

Rust (***Puccinia cynodontis***) has been found on Sunturf Bermuda in Oklahoma, but is believed not to be a problem when the lawn is properly managed unless unusual conditions favor a severe outbreak.

