

good healthy condition and the greens smooth and firm. After the greens have been thus treated it is necessary to follow with the preventive method as suggested above to avoid a recurrence of the undesirable condition.

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**Soil analyses.**—On page 128 of the June, 1925, Bulletin the following item appears: "Soil analyses.—These are of practically no value. No one living can tell what they mean." This was meant to refer only to chemical analyses of the traditional sort. Mechanical soil analyses are helpful, as are also those which determine the acidity or alkalinity of the soil.

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## Centipede Grass (*Eremochloa ophiuroides*)

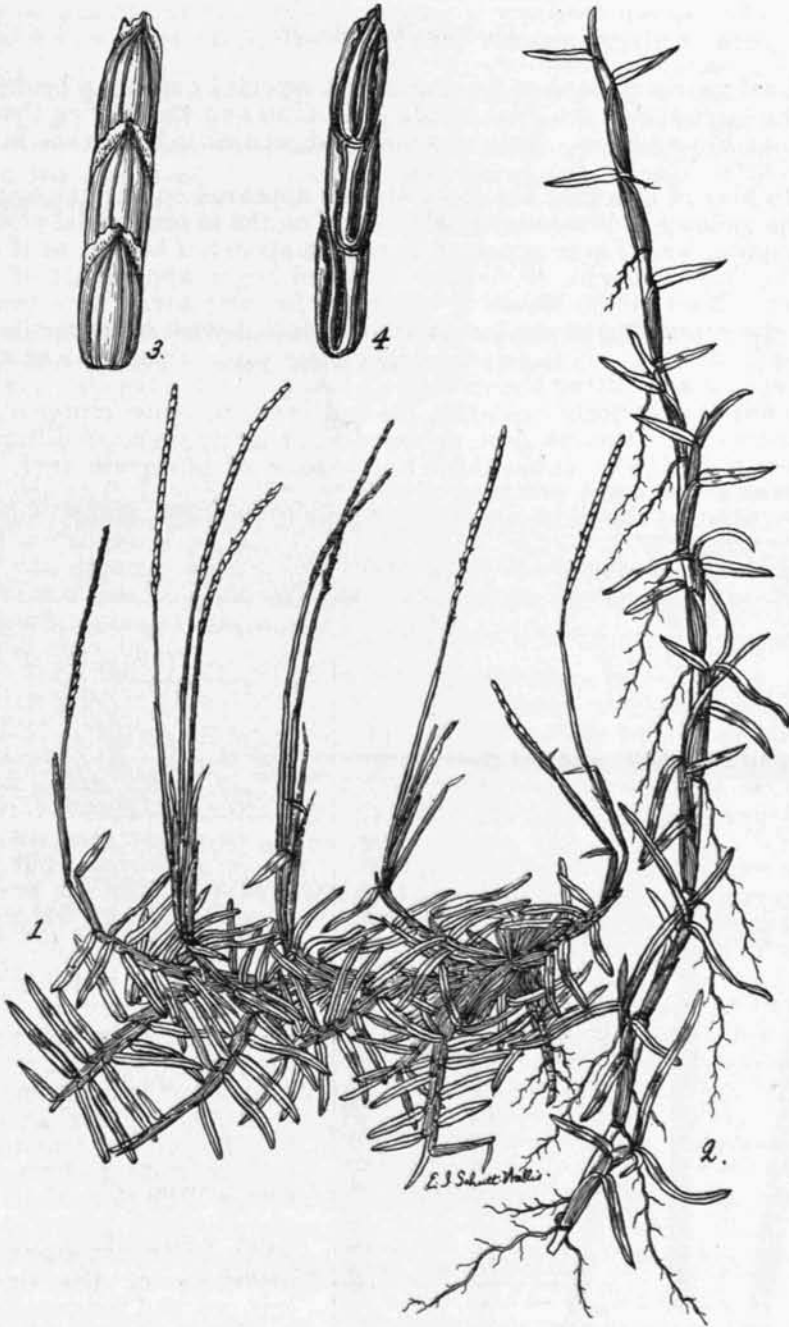
By C. V. Piper and W. E. Stokes

Centipede grass is a creeping perennial grass occupying much of the southern half of the Chinese Empire and forming there the principal pasture and lawn grass. It was introduced into the United States by the Department of Agriculture in 1919, and since then has been widely tested. It proves hardy in the United States only far southward, south of a line from Shreveport, La., to Wilmington, N. C. The illustration shows its characters well. In a general way it is intermediate between carpet grass and Bermuda grass, but it will make excellent turf where neither of these is satisfactory. For most of Florida and along the Gulf strip for 100 miles inland, especially on the lighter soil, it is the best fairway grass yet discovered.

It spreads by stolons which lie close to the ground and are strongly anchored by roots at each joint. These stolons may grow 3 to 5 feet long in a season; and the turf formed is very dense. At Gainesville, Fla., it proves superior for fairway turf to any other grass, and it will spread over that of any other species. It is low-growing, rarely over 6 inches high even when in bloom, and therefore requires little mowing. Seed of good quality is produced in abundance, but commercial supplies have not as yet been developed. For the present, therefore, it must be planted by stolons, each joint of which will readily produce a new plant.

In critical comparisons at Gainesville, Fla., it proves superior to all other grasses for lawns and fairways. It is immune to brown-patch, not attacked by chinch bugs, grows well in shade, and spreads rapidly. It is somewhat browned by frost, but not so much so as carpet grass or Bermuda grass. Also it greens up more rapidly after frost. When runners or joints are planted in rows 12 inches apart a complete sod may be secured in 90 days if well cared for. In an experiment continued over three years on a light sandy soil, centipede grass in competition with other turf grasses proved by far the best for fairway or lawn turf.

At the present time our conclusion is that centipede grass is by far the best of fairway grasses for great areas of soils in the region to which it is adapted. It is hoped that every Green Section golf club in the region will start a nursery of this grass so as gradually to make its fairways of this turf. Material for this purpose will be furnished gratis, together with full instructions. One firm has already planted a large nursery of this grass so as to furnish material commercially. Within a few years seed supplies will, it is hoped, be available.



**CENTIPEDE GRASS (EREMOCHLOA OPHIUROIDES)**

- 1. A piece of a plant, one-half natural size.
- 2. A runner, one-half natural size.
- 3 and 4. Front and back views of a piece of a spike, enlarged.