

### Yellow Foxtail—a Dangerous Turf Weed



Yellow foxtail (*Chaetochloa lutescens*). Plant, about one-third natural size; seeds, much enlarged

Yellow foxtail (*Chaetochloa lutescens*, or *Setaria glauca* of most authors) is a coarse introduced grass which is abundant over most of the territory east of the Rocky Mountains. It is a dangerous turf weed, and particularly so in the northern Mississippi and Missouri Valleys, the Ohio Valley, and the Great Lakes Region. In one case considerable damage to fairways was reported in the summer of 1925 by a golf club in the Chicago district, and to such extent that three fairways had to be reseeded. In its habits the grass behaves much like crab-grass. The plants are annual, appearing as seedlings in spring, growing vigorously and maturing much seed in summer, and dying in the fall, leaving bare spots in the turf. Left undisturbed, it will tend to crowd out other grasses. It can be distinguished from crab-grass by its smooth, shiny leaves, and compact, cylindrical, foxtail-like seed heads, which turn yellow as the seeds ripen. Under continuous close cutting it seeds close to the ground. If allowed to grow uncut, the seed heads will be produced sufficiently high above the ground so that they may be cut off.

Where this grass is found invading putting greens it should be weeded out by hand and never allowed to produce ripe seeds. In the fairways and rough it may be allowed to grow taller, until the seed heads are formed, and then cut while the seed heads are still green; this should effectively prevent its seeding and thus reappearing the following year. For cutting the grass at this height a scythe or mowing machine may be found necessary. In areas where the infestation is heavy, the foxtail should be kept constantly mowed. Its presence, especially if it is abundant, may with a degree of certainty be attributed to the use of fresh manure or to a lack of sufficient fertilization of a suitable character. Seed heads of yellow foxtail are rather abundant in many kinds of hay, and in this way may be introduced on a golf course through the use of fresh manure. Manure a year old may however be used with reasonable safety. Furthermore, where turf is kept well fertilized and watered, thus affording conditions under which the desirable turf grasses may thrive, the yellow foxtail will to a large extent be crowded out.

Although the grass may not in itself be objectionable in the rough, yet it should not be allowed to remain anywhere on a golf course, as from the rough it will spread to the fairways and greens.

---

### **Some U. S. Golf Association Decisions on the Rules of Golf**

On the twelfth hole are white stakes indicating an area out-of-bounds, between the twelfth and fourteenth fairways, between which fairways are rough and water. Player A drove over the white stakes and beyond them into the fourteenth fairway, which is parallel. He claimed that his ball on the fourteenth fairway was not out of bounds. Player B claimed to the contrary. Which player was correct?

Decision.—Under definition 8, "Out-of-bounds is all ground on which play is prohibited." In this case the player's ball rested on playable ground and was therefore not out of bounds. It is obvious that the intent of the stakes placed between the two holes was to mark out certain ground on which play was prohibited.

Is there a rule prohibiting a player's playing with a golf professional in the qualifying round of a golf tournament?

Decision.—Section 2 of Rule 1 under Special Rules for Stroke Competitions covers this point. "Competitors shall play in couples" means that a competitor must play with another competitor; and unless there is no such partner for the player and special permission has been given to play with a marker (professional) before starting, the player is disqualified.

In a championship match play are players privileged to stop play until the following day in case it begins to rain after the match is in progress and a number of holes have been played? Is there anything which may delay or stop a match already begun and not result in a default?

Decision.—Provided the competition is not delayed and both competitors have given their consent, the match may be postponed.