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New Bluegrass Hugs, Holds Soil

The new Fyking, Kentucky bluegrass, from Sweden, is not only well grounded in pedigree but literally in its ability to hug and hold soil.

One of the amazing features about this variety, of which much will be heard in 1968, is how it withstands low mowing—even 1/2 inch or less, unusually low for any fine turfgrass save bent.

Perhaps Fyking's capacity for making a ground-hugging carpet is its "low center of gravity." Some comparisons at the well known Lawn Institute showed irrigated Fyking at 1-1/2 inches to consist 74% of underground parts (roots, rhizomes, crowns), 26% top growth.

This compared to 67% for another Scandinavian selection, and to 85% for natural Kentucky bluegrass from Ohio, both cared for exactly like the Fyking. Even when Fyking was mowed at 1/2 inch, much like a golf green, 71% of the dried weight consisted of underground parts rather than succulent top growth.

OF COURSE, there's really no such thing as a "center of gravity" for sod, but it is true that strains vary in their tendency to grow low. Fyking leaf blades bend back rather markedly with uncrowded plants usually below mowing height.

The blades are more curved than in most bluegrasses, and tend to "weave" an attractive surface. Especially noteworthy is Fyking's ability to produce an abundance of fine shoots called tillers, which contribute much to the density of a Fyking sward.

These individual characteristics do crop up from time to time in mixed populations of bluegrasses, such as may be found in old fields in many parts of the world. But it takes a bit of doing to isolate a plant carrying a whole complement of desirable features.

Not only must the characteristic be tested and proven useful, but they must be perpetuated in the offspring. This is rather easy with something like a geranium or flowering shrub, where cuttings are rooted from the stem of the parent plant. But when seed is formed, there is always the chance that crossing will re-assort the sought-after features.

Thus the originator of an outstanding variety such as Fyking must also determine that his seed comes true-to-type. Fortunately, most Kentucky bluegrasses have the potentiality for apomictic formation of seed. Pollination occurs, but not mating of the hereditary cells. For you with a technical interest, Fyking has a chromosome count of

Small Business Exposition At Fairground

What are the opportunities in small business? Where can the public find them? The average American "fairly rich" to get into business for himself, but bucking competition, from national firms makes it increasingly difficult. Franchising may be the answer for the man who wants to be his own boss and still part of a national firm.

The "4th annual start your own business and franchise exposition" will be presented at the State Fairgrounds in the Community Arts Building, May 23 through May 26. The Franchise Show has come to be recognized as "a super-

Begonias are rated among the best of house plants because they are easy to grow. The Society of American Florists says begonias do not "like" soil that is constantly moist. Let the topsoil become almost dry, then water the pot thoroughly, SAF advises.

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