

POA AQUATICA ON WATERWAYS

3. By large rafts of material which break off from parent colonies floating away and anchoring elsewhere;
4. By floods carrying pieces across country; and
5. By wild fowl (probably duck) carrying seed from place to place.

Where possible, control should be exercised, as, for instance, by keeping stock from affected drains, or by advising drain cleaners to put all material on banks.

Apart from this, however, the major problem of keeping large waterways open and fairly free from the grass requires the attention of drainage engineers working through some competent authority. Dredges would be necessary, and, in such work, care should be exercised to ensure that no grass escapes to establish other colonies. The bulk of the grass should be placed on high land where it will die. Fortunately most of the rivers and canals are provided with stop banks upon which the *Poa aquatica* could be placed as it is dredged from the streams.

Other Means of Control

Apart from the controls already advocated, the planting of drains and canal banks with trees so that the banks are well shaded has the effect of greatly reducing grass establishment. Farmers and drainage boards, therefore, could assist greatly in control of *Poa aquatica* by planting their waterways with trees to reduce the growth of the grass.

Owing to the huge bulk of water in streams recourse to poison sprays would not be very effective. Sprays would be quickly diluted to a strength which would be quite innocuous. However, in tidally-affected streams *Poa aquatica* fails to establish or thrive where the water is saline. Consequently no acute problem exists in the lower reaches of drains, streams, and rivers where salt water is encountered, although the grass menaces much of the drainage system of these areas, and fairly strong control measures are required.

It is not anticipated that any measures will be completely successful for eradicating the grass, but maintenance of waterways by dredging would minimise its present adverse effect upon land drainage.

While the grass has certain virtues on poorly-drained land where it will establish freely and carry a quantity of stock equalled only by first-class pastures on more favoured country, the main consideration should be that of the greatest good for the largest number; and, if this point is conceded, then *Poa aquatica* will require rigid control to prevent it from becoming a menace to other farm lands.



Poa aquatica on drain sides.



Looking down a waterway completely filled with *Poa aquatica*.