

<i>Carex breviculmis</i>	0	0	34
<i>Brachythecium albicans</i> moss	28	0	1
Rosette plants			
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i> narrow-leaved plantain	19	21	23
<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i> catsear	12	25	6
<i>Crepis capillaris</i> hawksbeard	15	3	10
<i>Bellis perennis</i> daisy	1	2	1
Broad-leaved and rhizomatous plants			
<i>Dichondra repens</i> dichondra	7	6	7
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i> selfheal	2	4	0
<i>Trifolium repens</i> white clover	1	14	4
<i>Trifolium dubium</i> suckling clover	5	2	0
<i>Cerastium holosteoides</i> mouse-ear chick-	2	3	1
<i>Oxalis corniculata</i> weed	0	3	0
<i>Achillea millefolium</i> yarrow	0	0	1
A pinnately branched moss	2	0	0

The tufted moss *Brachythecium albicans* which gives the lawn its soft yellow-green patches in winter, is overtopped and obscured by the grasses, carex and rosette plants in spring and summer, when the air moisture at ground level is low. The rosette plants, unshaded by the continually mown grasses, have their leaves pressed to the ground, so preventing the spread of the smaller leaved plants.

In the dry conditions of March, the catsear and hawksbeard have purple colouring in their leaves, with conspicuous hairs on the upper surfaces. *Carex breviculmis* is best able to withstand drought and is vigorous when other mat-formers have wilted.

Further reading:

"Weeds of turf" by A.J. Healy in Proceedings of N.Z. Institute for Turf Culture Conferences, 1956 and 1957, 11 pp.

"The Living Garden or the How and Why of Garden Life" by E.J. Salisbury. G. Bell & Sons ed.2, 1942, 232 pp.

BOOK REVIEW

by John Thompson

"New Zealand Mosses" by Sheila Natusch

A booklet of this size can only deal with a few of the more common species of the wide variety of mosses that can be found in New Zealand. The author has a pleasant style and describes well the interesting life history of these lowly plants. She supplies much interesting information though little attempt is made towards the identification of the mosses mentioned.

Some of the two dozen illustrations are excellent and most of them help in identification of genera. Some indication of the scale of the drawings would be of further assistance.

This is a booklet for beginners but never the less a welcome addition to the very few books available on New Zealand mosses.

Published by Pegasus Press at 50¢ retail, 24 pages.

AN AMERICAN FERN LOVER

by Frances Theodora Parsons, 1899

"You will never learn to know the ferns if you expect to make their acquaintance from a carriage along the highway, or in the interval between two meals. For their sakes you must renounce indolent habits. You must be willing to tramp tirelessly through woods and across fields, to climb mountains and to scramble down gorges.

You must be content with what luncheon you can carry in your pocket. And let me tell you this. When at last you fling yourself upon some bed of springing moss, and add to your sandwich cresses fresh and dripping from the neighbouring brook, you will eat your simple meal with a relish that never attends the most elaborate luncheon within four walls. And when you later surrender yourself to the delicious sense of fatigue and drowsy relaxation which steals over you, mind and body, listening half-unconsciously to the plaintive, long-drawn notes of the wood-birds you will wonder vaguely why on Summer days you ever drive along the dusty high road or eat indoors or do any of the flavorless conventional things that consume so large a portion of our lives."