



Photos by K. Morris

Grasses for Overseeding Bermudagrass Fairways

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Objective

Evaluate the performance of 31 grasses and blends for fairway overseeding.

Summary

Overseeding bermudagrass fairways is a common practice in much of the southern U.S. One key to overseeding success is selecting the appropriate species and/or variety.

Various species and seed blends used in overseeding were established on fairways on 12 golf courses. The golf courses were located in the Southwest, Southeast and transition zone. Turf was rated for establishment in fall, winter performance and spring transition.



Results

- At most locations, the perennial ryegrass entries or blends of perennial ryegrass were the best performers.
- *Poa trivialis* varieties had the lowest turfgrass quality ratings at most locations, were slower to establish and were lighter green in color than the perennial ryegrasses.
- The newer intermediate ryegrasses have quality closer to that of perennial ryegrass, and they tend to die back earlier, allowing the bermudagrass to grow in.
- Making the transition from overseeding to bermudagrass in spring is extremely difficult, and the results are greatly influenced by weather. Courses committed to overseeding should have realistic expectations of the outcome.

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