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## Warm-Season Native Grasses for Playable Roughs

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### Objective

Evaluate the playability of cultivars of blue grama alone or mixed with buffalograss for unmowed rough and determine the impact of chemical weed control, burning, and mowing on performance of the grasses.

## Summary

Unmowed rough is found on many golf courses in the Midwest. While unmowed rough offers many benefits, these areas still require some care so play is not slowed and nuisance pests are managed properly.

Five cultivars of blue grama were planted alone and as a mixture with buffalograss and were not mowed to determine performance as an unmowed rough. Chemical weed control was applied once and weed control was evaluated and plots were either mowed or burned once each spring to manage undesired above-ground vegetation.

## Results

- Previous studies and results from a survey of Midwestern superintendents indicated that two native grasses, blue grama and buffalograss, can create attractive unmowed roughs that are playable.
- A three-year study of blue grama and buffalograss alone and in combinations showed that, alone or in combination, the grasses are unattractive after mowing or burning in spring and therefore not acceptable for golf course roughs in the Midwest.



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