



Overseeded Bermudagrass: Improving Turf Aesthetics During Spring Transition

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Objective

Determine whether partial herbicidal control of overseeded perennial ryegrass in May will increase bermudagrass cover and aesthetics when the remaining perennial ryegrass is controlled with herbicides in July.

Summary

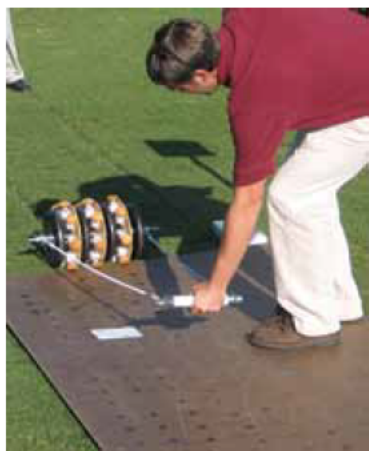
Removing overseeded perennial ryegrass from bermudagrass is a challenge for golf courses, which must maintain playability during the transition. Research conducted at Virginia Tech pioneered two new partial-control application techniques for removing overseeded perennial ryegrass. The concept is that bermudagrass cover and aesthetics can be improved by one or several partial-control herbicide applications early in the season so that turfgrass quality remains high while the remaining perennial ryegrass is controlled later in the season.

Three partial-control techniques (drip, sponge and strip) to remove overseeded perennial ryegrass were evaluated on golf courses in Charlottesville, Va. in 2006 and Blacksburg, Va. in 2007. The first partial-control was applied in late April or May, followed by a sequential

partial-control application three weeks later for some treatments and a blanket herbicide application for all treatments one month after the sequential application. Bermudagrass cover and turfgrass quality were visually rated at regular intervals following the herbicide applications.

Results

- Partially controlling perennial ryegrass using drip, sponge and strip application techniques can increase bermudagrass cover and turfgrass quality after a blanket herbicide application in June or July.
- The drip and sponge treatments were shown to improve turfgrass quality over strip application, while all partial-control techniques provided similar improvement in bermudagrass cover.



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