

Midwest Fact Sheet

Controlling Contaminant Tall Fescue

Recent heat and drought stress has made tall fescue contamination in lawns, athletic fields and sod farms more conspicuous. In midsummer, deeply rooted tall fescue continues to thrive, creating a patchwork of coarse-textured leaf blades among stressed Kentucky bluegrass, and/or perennial ryegrass turfs. Digging or spot treating with glyphosate may be desirable when treating small isolated patches of tall fescue and selective herbicides are more effective when excessive tall fescue contamination is present. When spot treating in a healthy stand of Kentucky bluegrass, fill in from bluegrass rhizomes may alleviate the need for reseeding. However, seeding is often recommended following treatment. A selective product labeled to control tall fescue in Kentucky bluegrass is chlorsulfuron (Corsair) and sulfosulfuron (Certainty) will soon be labeled for this purpose. Minimal phytotoxicity and stunting of Kentucky bluegrass and/or fine fescue may be observed shortly following application. These products cause severe phytotoxicity and potential thinning of perennial ryegrass at the rates required for tall fescue control, so do not apply to stands composed of greater than 10-20 percent perennial ryegrass. Multiple applications of either product are required to remove well-established tall fescue. Though these products are well-suited to broadcast applications, they can also be used to spot treat areas. Spot treating may result in short-term isolated areas of discolored bluegrass and a second application can often be challenging to align over top the first. Managers should select the strategy of control that best suits their own specific situation.



Photo: Tall fescue contamination in drought-stressed Kentucky bluegrass

Midwest Regional Turf Foundation Calendar of Events

2007

October 11 **Golf Day,**
Coyote Crossing, West Lafayette

November 14-15 **Turf & Ornamental Seminar,**
Daniel Center, West Lafayette

December 10 **Basic Training, Fort Wayne**

December 18 **Basic Training, Indianapolis**

2008

January 14-16 **Indiana Green Expo,**
Indiana Convention Center, Indianapolis

January 22 **Basic Training, Evansville**

February 11-14 **IN-IL Short Course, Lebanon**

February 25-28 **IN-IL Short Course, Willowbrook, IL**

June 1 **2008-09 MRTF Member Renewal**

July 15 **Turf Field Day,**
Daniel Center, West Lafayette

*Midwest Regional Turf Foundation
PO Box 2285
West Lafayette, IN 47996-2285*

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