

MIDWEST FACT SHEET



Weed Control in Seeding Creeping Bentgrass

Seeding creeping bentgrass is common especially in late summer on golf courses to reestablish worn areas, increase density, or fill in bare areas following herbicide treatments. Weed control in these young, thin stands is often necessary to achieve rapid establishment and eliminate difficult-to-control perennial weeds including annual (Poa annua) and rough bluegrass (Poa trivialis) prior to establishment. Poor or no weed control after seeding creeping bentgrass is one of the most common mistakes leading to seeding failure on golf courses.

Insuring safety to the creeping bentgrass is the most limiting factor when selecting herbicides for use over new seedings. Preemergent herbicides applied shortly after emergence of the desired turf is one means of suppressing weed populations during establishment. However, preemergent herbicides can inhibit root growth produced by newly emerged stolons and thus slow establishment. Our research showed that dithiopyr (Dimension and others) applied after the second mowing controls newly emerged crabgrass while suppressing annual bluegrass preemergently. A second option is to apply Velocity 17.6 SG 1 to 2 weeks after emergence at rates of 1.5 to 3.0 oz/A, which is safe on L93 creeping bentgrass and likely other

varieties (<http://www.agry.purdue.edu/turf/report/2007/PDF/27.pdf>). Velocity will control many troublesome weeds including annual bluegrass, rough bluegrass and white clover. Velocity is most effective and safest at temperatures above 80F. Another option is quinclorac (Drive and others) applied 28 days after emergence of bentgrass to control crabgrass and white clover. Carfentrazone (QuickSilver) is the safest herbicide for broadleaf control on juvenile creeping bentgrass and may be applied as soon as 7 days after emergence. Remember to consult product labels for recommended rates as many of the active ingredients are sold under a variety of trade names and formulations.

For answers to many of your turf questions, visit the Purdue Turf web page at www.agry.purdue.edu/turf/ or www.mrtf.org.



White Clove suppression in L93 Creeping bentgrass treated 2 weeks after emergence with Velocity 17.6 SG

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Fountain grass and other ornamental grasses

Fountain grass and other ornamental grasses have added tremendously to landscapes of homes, commercial sites, and golf courses. However, we are now seeing some of these grasses escape from the ornamental beds into the turf. One in particular is fountain grass (*Pennisetum* spp) because it produces viable seeds which blow into surrounding turf and may germinate. We are unsure of the winter survival of fountain grass at lawn or rough height, but at least some of the clumps survive winters in central Indiana. Though most of the ornamental grasses cannot withstand lawn- or rough-height mowing, fountain grass can. Fountain grass has a tough blade which shreds when mowed, creating a whitish clump similar to the old Linn perennial ryegrass when mowed. We have completed two years of experiments at Purdue and University of Illinois and found Q4 at 3 oz/gal or Drive 75WDG (quinclorac) at 0.367 oz/gal spot-applied in one mid-summer application or two mid-summer applications two weeks apart. Only apply enough water to just wet the plant. Glyphosate wick-applied or digging individual plants would also work with a few plants in the landscape.

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Top: Adult Fountain grass in landscape beds. Bottom: Shredded leaves of fountain grass gives a brownish-white tint to the patches after mowing