

## ***Poa annua* Control Using Prograss**

Clark Throssell and Dan Weisenberger

### **Objective**

Our objective was to determine the effectiveness of Prograss applied following several application schedules for the control of *Poa annua*.

### **Rationale**

*Poa annua* is a common weed on many golf courses and some athletic fields and home lawns. Control of *Poa annua* is very difficult through cultural and/or chemical methods. AgrEvo, the manufacturer of Prograss, felt that Prograss applied regularly throughout the summer offered potential for *Poa annua* control.

### **How It Was Done**

'Putter' creeping bentgrass was seeded on the 10th fairway of the Kampen Golf Course in Sep 1997. The fairway was fertilized to promote rapid fill in and growth. Since that time the fairway has been fertilized with 3.0 to 4.0 lbs nitrogen per 1000 sq. ft. per year. The fairway is mowed at 0.5 inches three times per week with clippings returned. Pesticides are applied as needed to maintain high quality fairway turf. Since the site of the 10th fairway is on top of the old North Golf Course an abundance of *Poa annua* seed was in the soil. Some of this *Poa annua* seed has germinated and invaded the 10th fairway making it a good site for *Poa annua* control research. The initial date of application was 3 May and additional applications were made at three week intervals. All treatments were applied using a CO<sub>2</sub> powered hand-held spray boom in 2 gal water per 1000 sq. ft. Data collected were percent of plot area covered by *Poa annua*.

### **Results**

- None of the Prograss treatments reduced the amount of cover by *Poa annua*.
- Percent cover by *Poa annua* declined between 3 May and early Sep to the point where *Poa annua* could not be identified in any plot.
- By 28 Sep *Poa annua* was present in all plots and could be easily identified.
- The decline of cover by *Poa annua* in summer and recovery in fall is part of the normal life cycle of *Poa annua*.
- These results indicate the importance of rating *Poa annua* cover for an entire year to fully understand treatment effects.

Table 1. Percent cover of *Poa annua* following postemergence applications of Prograss.

Treatment	Rate of application	Application timing <sup>b</sup>	<i>Poa annua</i> cover <sup>a</sup>				
			3 May 1999	28 Sep 1999	24 Nov 1999	7 Dec 1999	19 Apr 2000
	lbs ai/A	weeks	----- % -----				
Check	---		18.8	10.5	6.3	5.8	18.8
Prograss 1.5EC	1.5	0, 3, 6	20.0	4.0	5.5	3.0	12.5
Prograss 1.5EC	0.75	9, 12, 15					
Prograss 1.5EC	1.5	18, 21					
Prograss 1.5EC	0.75	0, 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21	16.3	11.0	9.5	8.0	20.0
Prograss 1.5EC	0.75	0, 3, 6	22.5	13.0	6.3	9.5	18.8
Prograss 1.5EC	0.38	9, 12, 15					
Prograss 1.5EC	0.75	18, 21					
LSD (0.05)			NS	NS	NS	NS	NS

<sup>a</sup> Percent of plot area covered by *Poa annua*.

<sup>b</sup> Denotes weeks when applications were made.