

Poa annua Control

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Question? *What are your recent research findings on Poa control in overseeded fairways?*

Answer. Several recent discoveries have led to increased options for superintendents when formulating fairway Poa control strategies. These also provide different modes of action of herbicides, an important consideration in developing a Poa herbicide resistance management program. In addition to the traditionally used pronamide (Kerb) for Poa control in overseeded situations, research reveals that oxadiazon (Ronstar), dithiopyr (Dimension) and prodiamine (Barricade) can be successfully and safely used prior to overseeding with excellent control of Poa. Oxadiazon (2 lbs ai/a), dithiopyr (0.5 lbs ai/acre) and prodiamine (0.5 lbs ai/a) should be applied 8 to 10 weeks prior to overseeding with ryegrass. The ten-week interval should be followed when using prodiamine. Timing is critical as closer application timings to overseeding can cause delay or prevent ryegrass establishment. Another very important concern is preventing excessive overlap when using these products. Many failures have resulted when either the appropriate rate was not used initially, closer application timings were used, and when excessive overlap occurred. One means of minimizing the overlap situation is to apply half-rates in two directions. However, the control and precision of the spreader truck and operator are still critical. If either are off, overlap problems can result.

In particularly heavy Poa problem areas, selective postemergence control can be achieved with ethofumesate (Prograss). This consistently performs very well in my research trials and is safe if used properly. Two applications are needed. The first in the Carolinas should be around Thanksgiving and the second about 21 days later. Do not apply after January 15th or delays in spring greenup can be expected. Prograss should only be used in areas where the bermudagrass normally goes into complete dormancy during winter.

A followup application of the preemergence herbicide should be considered for especially heavy Poa populations. This should be timed before February 15th during most years. Superintendents may also wish to consider using a combination of a preemergence herbicide prior to overseeding and at least one ethofumesate application in late fall.

Courses should also consider skipping overseeding every 3 to 5 years to allow nonselective control of Poa. Since not all Poa seed germinates in one year, courses may wish to consider skipping two consecutive years in overseeding to provide best Poa control.

First printed in the Carolinas Green, July-August, 2001