

# CHEMICAL LOG

## PLANT GROWTH REGULATORS IN OVERSEEDING

**W**inter overseeding relies on cooler temperatures to favor development of the newly seeded turfgrass. However, inconsistent weather can cause havoc with even the most carefully planned transition from warm season turf to a cool season variety.

Making a plant growth regulator (PGR) application before seeding into existing warm season turf stands can give the new seedlings a competitive advantage. This may help hasten the establishment of the overseeded grass.

Soil moisture, nutrients and light will be more accessible. Also, the PGR will control the existing turf growth for three to four weeks, relieving the compaction stress from mowing.

For this program, you need to select a PGR, such as Embark, that has a short residual life. The residual life is the length of time in which the product remains active. Although a PGR will control existing turf growth for several weeks, it won't affect newly introduced turf after the residual life period has past. Check the product label for the product's estimated residual life.

The following overseeding transition program can give good results when you seed existing bermudagrass turf in either core aeration holes or by slit-seeding.

\*Mow bermudagrass about two to three days before the PGR application. Keep the mowing height extremely low, about 3/4-inch high.

\*Apply the PGR at recommended rate at least three days before you plan to overseed. In California, apply the PGR two weeks before overseeding.

\*Mow the grass once about two days after the PGR application but before you overseed.

\*Overseed with the turfgrass variety you select. You shouldn't need to mow for four to five weeks.

### Domination of Favored Species

The PGR application helps favor

the newly planted turfgrass. Bermudagrass is typically an aggressive turfgrass. By suppressing its growth, you tip the competitive advantage over to the newly planted turf.

Ryegrasses germinate quickly, so they can rapidly take advantage of the suppressed bermudagrass. This gives the ryegrass a chance to develop a healthy stand, especially in particularly warm fall seasons when bermudagrass can remain aggressive late into the season.

Fescues don't germinate as quickly as ryegrasses, so the extended time between seeding and mowing can be helpful. Pre-germinating the fescue seed also can help speed the establishment process.

### Spring Transition

The same principles apply to spring transition. Cool spring conditions can favor the cool season species well into the late spring. By applying a PGR, you give the advantage to the bermudagrass.

A smaller application rate is needed for fescues and ryegrasses because they are more sensitive to PGRs. Some slight discoloration may occur on ryegrass with some PGRs. Check the product label for the recommended application rate.

Apply the PGR when bermudagrass begins to show consistent green color. At this point, the bermudagrass should be quite competitive. The PGR application to suppress fescues and ryegrasses is about 1/8 of the rate required to suppress bermudagrass growth, so the PGR application won't significantly affect the emerging bermudagrass.

If you decide to seed the bermudagrass, wait at least three days after the PGR application. (Wait two weeks in California.) □

*Technical credit: PBI/Gordon Corporation.*

## DY'ON OR DY'ON "W" You Make The Choice



Dy'On is the original spray indicator.....the first to let you see where you sprayed.....a temporary dye that will slowly fade away in sunlight. Dy'On is also recommended as a pond and lake dye. Other diluted, imitator products are worth far less.

Dy'On "W" (washable) is not a dye but a temporary colorant. It is equally easy to use as Dy'On yet will rinse off hands, driveways and walkways quickly and easily.

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