

SPORTSTURF Highlights

By Asa High

Transition of overseeded turfgrasses in the southeast can be a difficult period for sports field managers and golf course superintendents. Newer cool-season turfgrass cultivars have proved resilient to warmer temperatures and possess the ability to compete with the underlying Bermudagrass well into the spring and summer months. Thus, turfgrass managers are left with a less than appealing stand of Bermudagrass. I am a University of Florida graduate student working toward combating this dilemma through overseeding research.

As an Environmental Horticulture graduate student specializing in Turfgrass Science, I'm currently evaluating in-season and transition performance of 31 cool-season turfgrass cultivars. Working under the supervision of Dr. Grady Miller and in conjunction NTEP, GCSAA and the USGA, I'm conducting a 2-year NTEP trial at the University of Florida Athletic Association facilities in Gainesville.

Over a 2-year period the overseeded cultivars are evaluated on a number of criteria including: percent establishment, percent coverage, overall quality, genetic color, density, texture, disease resistance, root shear

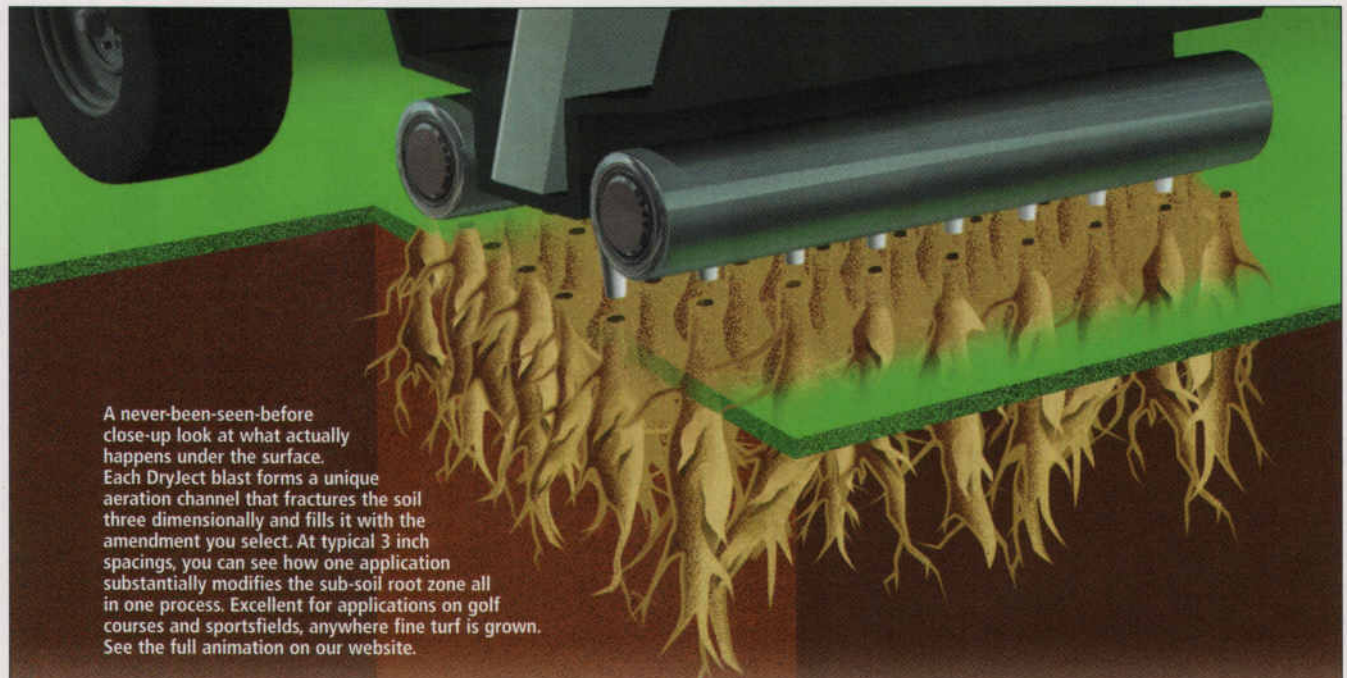


strength, and transition performance. I will also be working to evaluate modeling methods for predicting cool-season grass transition. Models that will be looked at include Growing Degree Day Modeling and other various models for predicting turfgrass growth.

The implications of this work could have far reaching impacts on turfgrass management and culture. This work could lead to better selection of overseeded turfgrasses for different climatic regions that provide a superior sports turf playing surface. The work could also be helpful to turfgrass breeders looking to breed cool-

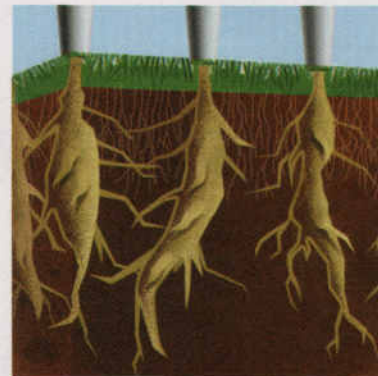
season grasses with superior in-season performance and excellent transitional qualities. The modeling portion of this research could lead to smoother transition for turf managers through proper timing of chemical applications to aid in transition.

For more information on this research, contact Asa High at g8trhigh@ufl.edu or Dr. Grady Miller at gmler@mail.ufl.edu.



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