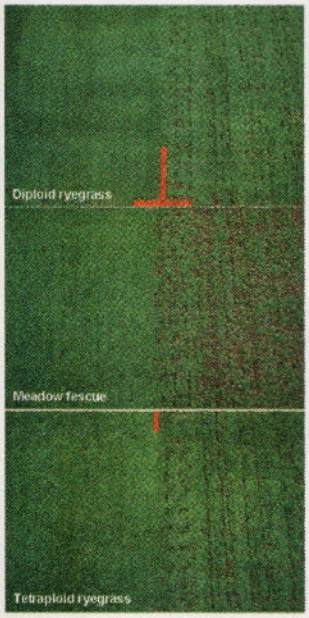

Photo 3: Traffic tolerance of the tetraploid ryegrass appears to be very similar to diploid ryegrasses.

Future outlook

The development of overseeding grasses with improved transition characteristics could have a significant effect on future overseeding management programs and could reduce the need to use herbicides to transition overseeded turf back to bermudagrass. These initial trials clearly demonstrate the potential of two new species, meadow fescue and tetraploid perennial ryegrass, for overseeding dormant bermudagrass turf. As these are the first experimental lines developed for this purpose, it is assumed that further advances can be made by breeders to enhance desirable characteristics in these species. At present, the most notable characteristics displayed by these species include good germination and seedling vigor, good turfgrass color and quality and improved transition characteristics compared to diploid perennial ryegrass.

New studies with these grasses are currently underway to determine specific management requirements for these species such as optimal seeding rates, fertility requirements, mowing requirements and pest management issues. Studies are also underway to investigate the use of chemical and non-chemical methods to transition these grasses back to bermudagrass. In addition, these grasses are being exposed to traffic in many of these studies to determine how management practices affect their ability to perform under traffic. Preliminary results suggest that these grasses can be maintained under a range of mowing heights, from 0.25 inch up to 0.75 inch. In addition, traffic tolerance of the tetraploid ryegrass appears to be very similar to diploid ryegrasses (Photo 3), which suggest that this species can be used in those sports turf situations where perennial ryegrass has been traditionally used. Initial indications are that meadow fescue is less tolerant of traffic than the ryegrasses, especially at low heights of cut (< 0.5 inch).

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John Mascaro's Photo Quiz

Can you identify this sports turf problem?

Problem: Irregular brown arrow shaped area on field

Turfgrass Area: Multi-use park field

Location: Burlington, IA

Grass Variety: Mixture of cool season grasses

Answer to John Mascaro's Photo Quiz on Page 51

John Mascaro is President of Turf-Tec International

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Penn State's award-winning Jeffrey Field, with Beaver Stadium and famed Mount Nittany in the background

John Mascaro's Photo Quiz

Answer:
from page 14

The irregular brown arrow shaped area on field was caused by running over a firework with a mower. The firework was not a little one that you buy at the store, but one of the big booms that are in the sky after a typical minor league game. According to the sports turf manager, the fireworks guy scouts the area for any extra, unexploded shells but apparently he missed one. The mower operator was mowing the multi-use park field behind the stadium when he hit a 3-inch shell (or "salute" as the fireworks guy called it) and it exploded, leaving this nice arrow shaped pattern in the grass.

The sports turf manager thinks the "stem" of the arrow shape comes from the discharge chute on the zero turn rotary mower with a 60-inch deck. The mower was not damaged but the operator received a concussion and was put on the disabled list for 15 days. All things considered, it could have been worse. The mower operators also usually do a thorough check before they start mowing this particular area. I bet these guys on this crew do not need coffee in the morning to keep on their toes. ■

Photo submitted by TJ Brewer, Head Groundskeeper for the Burlington Bees in Burlington, IA, the Class A minor league affiliate of the Kansas City Royals.

If you would like to submit a photograph for John Mascaro's Photo Quiz please send it to Turf-Tec International, John Mascaro, 1471 Capital Circle NW, Suite # 13, Tallahassee, FL 32303 or email to john@turf-tec.com. If your photograph is selected, you will receive full credit. All photos submitted become property of *SportsTurf* Magazine.