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The playing schedule is also important. It is best to plan overseeding where you can limit the use as long as possible to allow the seed to germinate and begin to establish. You can overseed just before a game or practice to allow the athletes to push the seed in to promote necessary seed to soil contact, but you still want to limit use as much as possible after to promote germination and establishment.

I actually have a student working on PGRs and overseeding right now, and I will know a lot more after this season. So far from what we have seen it depends on the bermudagrass variety being grown and the timing of the PGR application. PGRs do help with wear on some bermudagrass varieties that we have tested.

Anything you can do to promote optimal seed to soil contact when overseeding, with the exception of scalping the bermudagrass, is great. Scalping the bermudagrass may stress it too much and limit its winter survival/recovery. Brushing in the seed, light sand topdressing after, and rolling are three keys to improving seed to soil contact.

Dr. James McAfee, Texas A & M

What criteria should be used to make a choice to overseed bermudagrass athletic fields? If the field is used extensively during the dormant season for bermudagrass, then the manager should consider overseeding the field for play. Basically overseeding is done primarily on baseball/softball and soccer fields in this area.

What turfgrass variety works well for overseeding in Texas? Is there any good choice other than perennial ryegrass? I still recommend the perennial ryegrass as the best choice. While annual ryegrass can be used, it does not work as good as the perennial ryegrasses. Also, when you look at the difference in seeding rates, annual is not all that much cheaper than perennial. Only advantage I can see to the annuals is a quicker spring transition.

What is the best timing to overseed in your region? For the Dallas/Fort Worth area of the state, mid-October to early November is the best time to plant the cool-season grasses such as perennial ryegrass.

Do you recommend using a plant growth regulator before overseeding bermudagrass? I do recommend using a growth regulator. However, I don't think very many sports field managers in this area are using growth regulators in conjunction with overseeding.

What other practices/strategies do you recommend for best overseeding results? One of the keys to a successful overseeding is getting good seed to soil contact. Therefore, I normally recommend scalping the bermudagrass and a light vertical mowing of the bermudagrass. The next key is proper irrigation following application of seed. In my experience, most overseeding failures can be tied to improper irrigation of the newly planted ryegrass seed. ■

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