Update on university turf-related research projects, Part II

Editor's note: *Following are more reports from some leading turfgrass researchers in the US on their current studies. Part I appeared in our December 2009 issue.*

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY

Traffic stress research conducted on National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) trials will continue at Rutgers University Horticultural Research Farm II, North Brunswick, NJ in 2010. Previously, the 2005 NTEP Kentucky bluegrass test received seasonal wear applications in fall 2006, summer 2007, spring and fall 2008, and summer 2009. This test is scheduled to receive wear in spring 2010

Wear stress is applied with a modified M24C5A Sweepster in which the steel brush on the unit was replaced with rubber paddles. The rotational movement of the paddles causes wear. The simulator allows control of both forward operating speed as well as paddle rpm. In addition to wear data, turfgrass quality has been assessed in the absence of wear since the inception of the test and 2009 data include entry susceptibility to dollar spot.

The 2006 NTEP tall fescue test has received season-specific applications of traffic (wear plus compaction) in fall 2007, summer 2008, and spring and fall 2009. Wear is applied with the modified Sweepster and compaction is applied with an approximately 1.0-ton vibratory roller. The test is scheduled to receive traffic in summer 2009. Other data include non-trafficked turfgrass quality (2007-09) and brown patch susceptibility ratings taken on multiple dates in both 2008 and 2009. Similarly, research results can be found at the aforementioned websites.

Wear was applied to entries comprising the 2004 NTEP Perennial Ryegrass trial in the fall of 2009.

In late 2009, the Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science constructed a Cady Traffic Simulator to compliment its current wear simulator. The new traffic simulator will be integrated into future turfgrass traffic stress tolerance projects at Rutgers. Comparison of the Cady traffic simulator with the modified Sweepster (wear) simulator will be made.

Rutgers research personnel include:

- Brad Park, Sports Turf Research & Education Coordinator
- Dr. James Murphy, Extension Specialist in Turfgrass Management
- T.J. Lawson, Research Technician
- Bill Dickson, Research Farm Supervisor
- Joe Clark, Research Technician
- Dr. Bruce Clarke, Director, Center for Turfgrass Science

Research results can be accessed at www.ntep.org and in the Rutgers Turfgrass Proceedings (www.turf.rutgers.edu/research/reports/index.html). Specific URLS for some reports include:
http://www.turf.rutgers.edu/research/reports/2008/201.pdf and
http://www.turf.rutgers.edu/research/reports/2007/213.pdf
http://www.turf.rutgers.edu/research/reports/2006/179-196.pdf

Research is sponsored by the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program, Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science, and New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station.

For additional information, please contact Brad Park at park@aesop.rutgers.edu or murphy@aesop.rutgers.edu.

AUBURN UNIVERSITY

Weed management update: Indaziflam (Bayer CropScience), a new herbicide for preemergence and postemergence *Poa annua* control in warm-season turfgrass. Scott McElroy, Assistant Professor, and Jack Rose, Research Assistant.

Indaziflam is a new herbicide currently being evaluated for preemergence weed control in primarily warm-season turfgrass that was introduced at the 2009

Indaziflam is a new herbicide currently being evaluated for preemergence weed control in primarily warm-season turfgrass

Annual Meeting of the Weed Science Society of America (WSSA). Information about indaziflam presented in this research update was derived primarily from this WSSA abstract (Myers et al., 2009) and personal experience working with the product.

Indaziflam is classified as an alkylazine herbicide that inhibits cell wall biosynthesis. It possesses soil residual/preemergence activity, as well as postemergence activity on annual bluegrass. However, its preemergence control is the most promising aspect.

Numerous research trials have been conducted at Auburn evaluating indaziflam weed control efficacy. One trial evaluated the effect of application timing on indaziflam efficacy on *Poa annua* in non-overseeded bermudagrass turf. Herbicide, rates, and timing is presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Herbicide, rate, and timing of treatments applied for *Poa annua* control in dormant bermudagrass turf. Indaziflam is presented in metric units, rather than English units.

All treatments were applied with a CO^2 pressurized sprayer calibrated to deliver approximately 30 gallons per acre. No surfactant was included in any treatment. *Poa annua* control was rated monthly beginning January 2009. Control was rated on a 0 to 100% scale where 0 equals no injury and 100 equals complete elimination of all plant with no green tissue surviving. Greater than 80% control was considered commercially acceptable control based on turfgrass manager preferences. Bermudagrass green-up was rated on a similar 0 to 100% scale; however, no treatments delayed bermudagrass green-up at any time.

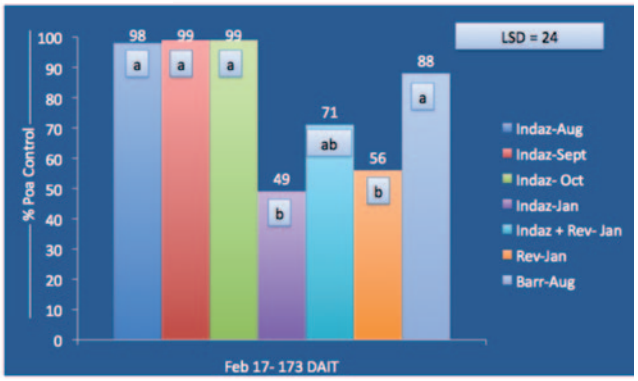
Herbicide	Rate	Timing	Abbreviation
Indaziflam	80 g ai/ha	August 28	Indaz-Aug
Indaziflam	80 g ai/ha	September 30	Indaz-Sept
Indaziflam	80 g ai/ha	October 30	Indaz-Oct
Indaziflam	80 g ai/ha	January 9	Indaz-Jan
Indaziflam + Revolver	80 g ai/ha + 17.4 fl oz/a	January 9	Indaz+Rev-Jan
Revolver	17.4 fl oz/a	January 9	Rev-Jan
Barricade	1 lb ai/a	August 28	Barr-August

Table 1

Only a single rate of indaziflam was evaluated over four timings from August to January (Figure 1). Indaziflam applied at August to October controlled *Poa annua* >98% when rated 173 days after initial treatment on 17 February 2009. Barricade at 1 lb ai/a applied 28 August controlled *Poa annua* 88%, equivalent to indaziflam treatments applied August to October.

Indaziflam alone, Indaziflam plus Revolver, and Revolver alone applied in January controlled *Poa annua* unacceptably (<80%). There are two reasons for decreased control with indaziflam applied in January. First, decreased temperatures can decrease effectiveness. This is known to occur with Revolver and is thought to be the cause of the decrease in control with Revolver alone at this timing. Second, *Poa annua* plants were >3

Figure 1



tillers when applied in January. Larger plants could simply be harder to control. Similarly, ethofumesate is known to decrease in control as plants become larger due to a decrease in herbicide absorption. A similar phenomenon could be occurring with indaziflam.

By April 10 rating, Revolver containing treatments control of *Poa annua* was >90% and equivalent to indaziflam alone treatments. Revolver is known for its "slowness" when applied during colder temperatures, especially in removing overseeded perennial ryegrass; however, Revolver is much more active on *Poa annua* than perennial ryegrass. As demonstrated in this study, Revolver control of *Poa annua* is just a matter of time.

Conclusion: Initial results with indaziflam are promising. There are currently no herbicides on the market that control *Poa annua* both pre and postemergence. Such a product would be well received and highly beneficial to the turfgrass industry.

Literature Cited

Myers, D.F., et al. 2009. Indaziflam/BCS-AA10717- A new herbicide for pre-emergent control of grasses and broadleaf weeds for turf and ornamentals. Proc., Weed Sci. Soc. Am. No. 386.

PURDUE UNIVERSITY

The Turf Science research program continues to reap the benefits of the extremely generous support of the Mid-West Regional Turf Foundation and many industry partners.

Pest management studies: Weed management studies have continued to evaluate the use of various novel herbicides like Tenacity for creeping bentgrass removal in Kentucky bluegrass athletic fields. This herbicide is being increasingly adopted by several regional cool-season athletic field managers and is being applied using an autumn application regimen. In addition, several continuing projects have identified various herbicide and management techniques to minimize roughstalk bluegrass encroachment in golf turf.

Insect studies have been evaluating the use of novel endophytes and entomopathogenic nematodes, as well as the role of fertilizer nutrient ratios on turfgrass health and the ability for turfgrasses to resist surface and sub-surface dwelling insects without the use of synthetic pesticides. Additionally, our entomology team has been closely monitoring a newly documented pest problem throughout the Ohio River valley, the occurrence of significant billbug damage in zoysiagrass.

Disease management: Our disease management team has been continuing to investigate various alternatives to traditional fungicides, including biorational products and the potential for disease forecasting models to better time fungicide applications. Furthermore, a multi-year study has been investigating the role of spray carrier volume on fungicide efficacy.

Species and cultivar evaluations: Bermudagrass cultivars—Being located at the northern edge of the upper transition zone, we continue to be an excellent location for the evaluation of bermudagrass cultivars for cold hardiness. In the third week of January, 2009, the air temperatures in West Lafayette plummeted to -22F without snow cover. These environmental conditions negatively affected the winter survival of several standard cultivars like Tifway and TifSport. By contrast, several cultivars with superior performance like the old "stand-bys" Midlawn, VaMont and Quickstand, and the more recent generation, Patriot, Riviera, Yukon, and GN-1, continue to perform well in successive years. In addition, there are some promising new experimental cultivars under development which show promise for the future. These have been developed by the Oklahoma State breeding program and include: OKC-7018, OKC-1119, OKC-1134 and OKS-2004.

Ryegrass—For the cool-season species several studies have focused on the perennial ryegrass. Field and laboratory studies have been conducted to determine the ploidy level of the collection of USDA ryegrass accessions and are evaluating the drought tolerance of these at three contrasting locations throughout Indiana. Using molecular techniques it was determined that in general the plants in the USDA collection as well as many of our commercially available cultivars are very much genetically similar. This information may be of use to our plant breeders as they expand their selection for plant material with improved traits for superior turf performance.

Bermudagrass overseeding: A field study was conducted over two years to determine optimum perennial ryegrass seeding rates for overseeding Patriot bermudagrass football fields and determine if multiple seeding events were superior to a single event for PRG establishment and persistence. This study was arranged in a 3 x 5 factorial with five seeding rates (12.5, 25, 50, 75, and 100 lbs/A/yr) and three application strategies (applying 100% of the seed in one application (100), 70% of total seed in the initial application plus 10% of total seed in each of three successive applications ten days apart (70/10/10/10), or four equal applications of 25% of the total seed applied ten days apart (25/25/25/25). Seed was initially planted the third week of August. The results of this study showed that ryegrass coverage rarely increased at seeding rates > 50 lbs/A/yr regardless of seeding strategy. The 25/25/25/25 seeding strategy consistently resulted in the most coverage, 55-77%, when rated in mid-Nov., regardless of seeding rate, followed by the 70/10/10/10 and 100 strategies with 46-62% and 20-52%, respectively. The relatively low ryegrass coverage values could be due to seedling competition with actively growing Patriot bermudagrass. These data indicate that when overseeding Patriot bermudagrass in the upper transition zone multiple seeding events appear to be superior to a single event and there is little benefit for exceeding seeding rates > 50 lbs/A/yr.

Cale Bigelow, Tim Gibb, Yiwei Jiang, Rick Latin, Zac Reicher and Doug Richmond: Departments of Agronomy, Botany and Plant Pathology and Entomology, respectively.

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS

Traffic, wear & compaction studies by J. Scott Ebdon, PhD:
Effects of Nitrogen and Potassium on Wear Stress Mechanisms in Perennial Ryegrass. Fertility trials were established to investigate the effects of five N rates in combination with three K rates on wear tolerance and associated mechanisms. Wear was applied using wear simulators fitted with metal soccer cleats. Optimum fertility for maximum wear tolerance and recovery was found to be 3 to 5 lbs N/1000ft2/yr. N rates exceeding 5 lbs caused excessive shoot growth rates, higher shoot water content and loss in cell wall components. Shoot density played a secondary role to shoot water content and leaf growth rates in accounting