

New Workman offers better ride

The new Toro Workman MD Series utility vehicles are now available. They feature Superior Ride Quality (SRQ), a system combining a calibrated, coil-over shock absorber suspension design with a patented Active In-Frame twister joint. Each axle reacts independently to the terrain so that all four wheels remain on the ground. In addition, the operator platform was extended for additional leg room. Aesthetic upgrades to the front body include the latch-opened injection-molded plastic hood, as well as a steel diamond plate floorboard.

The Toro Company

For information, fill in **054** on reader service form or see <http://www.oners.hotims.com/14685-054>



First-ever gas UV from Kubota

Kubota introduces the new gas-powered, RTV500 compact utility vehicle that comes with the comfort, technology and refinement of a larger utility vehicle, but is compact enough to fit in the bed of a full-size, long-bed pickup truck. At 54.7 inches wide and 72 inches tall, the RTV500 gets the job done with a 15.8 horsepower, liquid-cooled, two-cylinder Kubota gas engine, four-wheel drive, and a top speed of 25 miles-per-hour. The RTV500 comes standard with Kubota's exclusive new "VHT Plus" variable hydrostatic transmission, which eliminates the need to adjust belt drives and provides smooth, reliable transmission-assisted braking and hill-holding capabilities.

Kubota Tractor

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Pioneer Athletics adds colors to Star Stripe

Pioneer Athletics introduces Star Stripe colors (Blue, orange, red, yellow) for the Star Liner electric field liner. The Star Liner is a compact and portable electric field liner with a long-lasting battery and "Plug & Stripe" technology. Just "plug" the ready-to-use container of Star Stripe paint into the Star Liner and stripe away. Star Stripe paint features Halogen 2000 optical brighteners, giving you unbeatable lines that stand-up to tough play and weather. The paint container, which will stripe one regulation size soccer field, is self-sealing and specially designed to empty completely, minimizing waste.

Pioneer Athletics

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New Toolcat model available

Bobcat introduces the Toolcat 5610, featuring a three-point hitch and hydraulic power take off (PTO) for rear implements and the ability to run more than 40 front-mounted Bobcat attachments. Toolcat utility work machines accomplish many of the same tasks as a compact tractor, attachment carrier, compact loader, utility vehicle and more. It has an available Category 1 three-point hitch that allows buildings and grounds crews to perform a variety of tasks with three-point implements.

Bobcat Company

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Redesigned NewRider 3000

Newstripe's redesigned NewRider 3000 features include a 13-hp Honda OHV engine with oil alert, and the ignition, choke, throttle, pump switches and parking brake are now all located within easy reach of the operator's seat. An all-new foot peddle can be used for forward,

reverse, speed control and fast safety stops plus, the integrated hand lever can also be used if you prefer. You asked for it, we listened and now a removable Sun Shade (with water bottle holder of course) is standard equipment.

Newstripe

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Redesigned precipitation/uniformity gauges

Turf-Tec International has designed their Precipitation/Uniformity gauges, which are designed to be set up in a head to head or grid pattern to determine how much water is applied from an irrigation system and to also show the water coverage uniformity. They are also useful in performing water audits with companion tools like Infiltrimeters and moisture sensors. The set of 20 gauges are calibrated in tenths of an inch and millimeters for ease of reading the amount of water in each gauge.

Turf-Tec International

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TOOLS & EQUIPMENT

Sherwin-Williams introduces SherStripe

Sherwin-Williams brings a complete lineup of paints and tools to the field with its SherStripe Athletic Field Marking Paint Program for natural grass. It offers: bulk paints in highly pigmented colors, custom-tinted team colors, or a Bright White color that is formulated with state-of-the-art Optical Brighteners for high visibility on the field. SherStripe aerosol paints available in a variety of colors that provide fast-drying performance so fields are ready for play in less than one hour. The aerosol paints can be applied with SherStripe striping machines or a hand-held wand.

Sherwin-Williams

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Honda HS928 snowblower

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Honda Power Equipment

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SP-1575 Bulk Pro Spreader

SnowEx introduces the new SP-1575 Bulk Pro Spreader. Ideal for professional contractors who maintain roads, parking lots and driveways, the SP-1575 is designed to handle bulk materials, such as bulk (unbagged) salt, straight sand or sand/salt mixtures. Built with a 5.25-cubic-foot capacity hopper, the SP-1575 features a simple two-stage auger system that assures a positive, steady feed of material to the spinner without the clogging and flow problems associated with other auger configurations. Additionally, the patented vibrator/inverted-"V" flow system further facilitates bulk material movement.

TrynEx International

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Colorado Sports Turf Managers Association: www.cstma.org.

Florida #1 Chapter: 954/782-2748

Gateway Chapter Sports Turf Managers Association: www.gatewaystma.org.

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The Greater L.A. Basin Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association: www.stmalabasin.com.

Illinois Chapter STMA: 847/263-7603.

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Kentucky Sports Turf Managers Association: www.kystma.org.

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Minnesota Chapter STMA: www.mstma.com.

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Nebraska Sports Turf Managers Association: 402/441-4425.

North Carolina Chapter of STMA: www.ncsportsturf.org.

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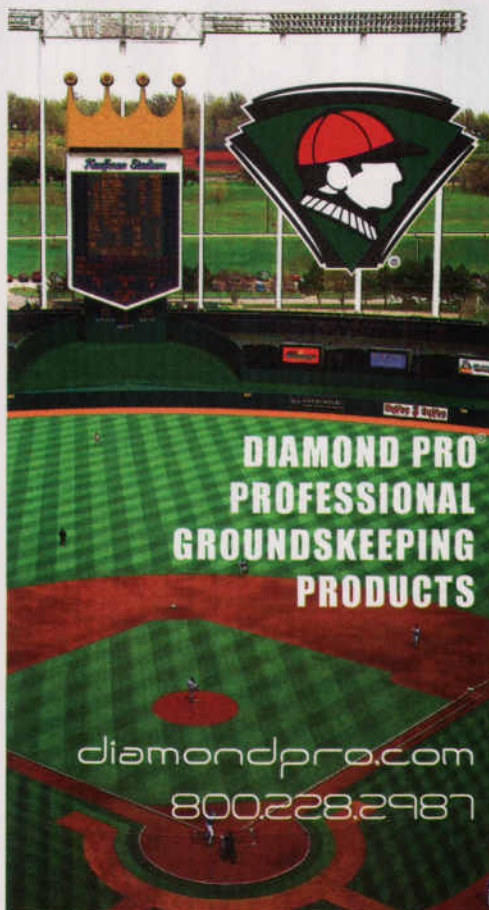
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Overseeding bermudagrass with ryegrass

What is the best way to overseed bermudagrass athletic fields? Should I mow low, verticut, aerify and then seed? Are there better ways? We have about 12 consecutive days we can stay off the game field, but the practice fields are constantly used.

Greensboro, NC



BY DR. GRADY MILLER
Professor, North Carolina
State University

Questions?
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Overseeding is still viewed by field managers as the "best thing" or "worst thing" that they do to their fields each year. I have seen overseeding take a poor-looking field and make it look like a million-dollar surface. If done well and the weather cooperates, it can really hide field blemishes. But the process does not always guarantee positive results. And there are the added requirements of in-season management and the concerns associated with transition back to bermudagrass the following year. These open up a whole new set of issues.

For now, let's just concentrate on the overseeding process. It is important that an overseeding date be chosen several months in advance. This is important because there are several timing related practices that can have direct consequences on the success or appearance of the overseed. The first one is preemergence herbicides. With overseeding, you are more limited on preemergence herbicides for annual bluegrass control. If you decide to use a preemergence herbicide the last summer application will need to be timed so as to not interfere with overseeding. Check the pesticide label for a reseeding interval. Winter annual weed control may also be more complex with overseeded fields, so prepare in advance.

The second significant timing issue is core cultivation. If the field is core cultivated and then overseeded, the seed will come up in the core aerification holes much more vigorously than in between holes. This can give the field a very splotchy appearance—it looks like a leopard print. For this reason, it is best to aerify fields about a month before seeding to allow the holes to fill. Apply an appropriate (based on soil test) complete fertilizer at this time to help the bermudagrass recover. The P and K components will be beneficial for the early seedling growth of the ryegrass.

To prepare for overseeding, it is typical to drop the mowing height by about half an inch and then vertical mow the area in two directions to help remove thatch. Vertical mowing opens the canopy to ensure good seed-to-soil contact. After vertical mowing use a mower, blower, or sweeper to remove debris. It is also advisable to irrigate the bermudagrass to prevent excessive drying of the cut plants.

Most field managers broadcast seed, but there is nothing to prevent you from drill seeding. Some of the newer drill seeders are designed to cut through the thatch layer and place the seed in a clean seed slit. This may reduce the need for aggressive vertical mowing.

Those are the common preparatory and planting practices. Other practices I would generally classify as optional. Some field managers have started using plant growth regulators in fall to slow the bermudagrass growth to reduce competition between bermudagrass and the overseeded grass. While this is generally not needed, it could provide a jump start to the overseed if the grass needs to be seeded early. Some field managers also topdress the field with sand after seeding to improve the soil to seed contact. This is a beneficial practice, but some find it to be cost prohibitive for the limited increase in establishment rate and seedling density.

If you can stay off the game field for 12 days in the fall and use an irrigation system, then you should be able to get a good stand of ryegrass. I would still hold out about 10% of my seed to re-seed any weak areas. For the practice field, you may have to put out seed and let the players cleat it into the bermudagrass. Your mortality rate will be much higher compared to the game field, so you will likely have to add more seed during the season. Typical seeding rates are from 6 to 15 pounds of seed per 1,000 square feet (or 260 to 650 pounds per acre). The lower the rate, generally the better the spring transition, so consider adjusting your seeding rates to meet your situation. For instance, use 6 to 8 pounds perennial ryegrass seed per 1000 square feet on football fields (season almost over when bermudagrass goes dormant) versus about 12 to 15 pounds per 1000 square feet on baseball fields (entire season played during time when bermudagrass is 50 to 100 percent dormant and has poor color).

After planting, lightly irrigate the field 2 to 4 times a day if you want to promote seed germination. After seedlings emerge, reduce watering to once daily for about a week and slowly reduce applications until you are watering as needed (usually once to twice a week if no rainfall).

If possible, wait a couple of weeks before mowing. Make sure your blades are sharp to prevent pulling seedlings out of the ground. I suggest mowing without catch baskets for the first few mowing so that any un-germinated seeds are redistributed rather than removed. Mowing heights are normally at 1 to 2 inches. Some managers target a mowing height that is 50% greater than the height they used on bermudagrass. Mowing frequency is normally once to twice a week depending on growth rate.

These steps should provide a good overseeding surface. Of course once the grass is up and growing, good cultural practices will be necessary to keep it healthy. Ryegrass is extremely forgiving in terms of establishment, so do not be afraid of doing something differently. There is no one correct seeding process. The biggest sources of establishment failure I have seen have generally been due to Mother Nature, not the human kind. ■

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