Smooth Crabgrass Control With Low-Rate Fenoxaprop

Fenoxaprop applied at the usually recommended rate for smooth crabgrass control (2.8-5.7 oz ai/A) is toxic to sensitive turfgrass species such as creeping bentgrass and bermudagrass. These species can, however, tolerate low rates (0.6 oz ai/A) of the herbicide. Researchers at the University of Maryland conducted a 2-year field experiment using perennial ryegrass plots to determine if the low rate of fenoxaprop would provide adequate smooth crabgrass control. The workers found that rates of 0.5-0.65 oz ai/A were indeed effective when applied every 2-3 weeks. However, to be successful, treatment must begin early, when smooth crabgrass is in the 1 to 2 leaf stage and continue without interruption until emergence has ceased in mid to late summer. Further research is necessary, nevertheless, to discover whether or not bentgrass and other sensitive species will tolerate such frequently repeated applications of fenoxaprop, even at the low rate.


Control of Poa annua in Kentucky Bluegrass

Researchers at the University of Guelph, Ontario, investigated the use of linuron for post-emergent control of Poa annua in Kentucky bluegrass (KBG). In 3 years of trials using 16 KBG cultivars established for 1 year or longer in field plots, the Canadian workers found that linuron applied at 1.3 to 1.8 lb/A controlled Poa annua with little or no damage to KBG. Newly seeded KBG cultivars, however, were severely damaged at similar rates, but nevertheless made a complete recovery 6-7 weeks following treatment.

Linuron was most effective when applied in mid May to early June. Summer applications are not recommended due to the greater potential for damage to KBG when heat or drought stressed, as well as the reduced efficacy of the herbicide on established Poa annua.

Before you rush out to buy this product, however, take note that linuron is currently not labeled for turf in either Canada or the U.S.