

CUTT

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Does Late Season Potassium Increase Snow Mold?

This study was conducted from June 28, 2007 to April 1, 2008. Except for August, monthly precipitation was above normal. Precipitation was such that supplemental irrigation was not required on a regular basis.

Experimental plots were established at the Cornell University Turfgrass and Landscape Research and Education Center in Ithaca, NY on a mixed stand of creeping bentgrass (70%) annual bluegrass (30%) (*Agrostis palustris/Poa annua*) sand-based putting green (avg. pH = 6.9).

The research area was maintained to championship conditions, with light frequent sand topdressing applied every one to two weeks depending on growth and performance.

Fertilizer treatments were made on a weekly basis, starting June 28 (Table 1). The final fertilizer treatments were made on November 21 (Table 2).

Applications were made with a handheld CO₂ sprayer at 40 psi fitted with TeeJet XR8015 nozzles calibrated to deliver 2 gallons of water per 1,000 ft².

Data were collected for turf quality, dollar spot occurrence, soil nutrients during the growing season and snow mold incidence and clipping yield in Spring 2008.

Results

Soil Analysis

Soil samples were taken on November 19 (2/plot, 6/treatment, combined for a total of 15 composite samples), to a depth of approximately 4 inches. Analysis was performed by Brookside Laboratories; results in Table 3.

The soil nutrient analysis indicates that most of the plots are well below the recommended sufficiency range published in the literature for both creeping bentgrass and annual bluegrass. There were significant differences for potassium levels but only at the 6 lb. annual rate.

Turf Quality (2007 Season)

Turf quality was assessed on seven occasions using a scale of 1 to 9; where 1 = poor quality, 9 = excellent quality, and 6 = acceptable quality. With the exception of 20-Aug, there were no significant differences in turf quality among the treatments (Table 4).

In spite of the low potassium levels measured in the treatments there was no effect of potassium fertilizer applications on turfgrass quality ratings during the growing season. The lack of effect on turfgrass quality is consistent with previous potassium research conducted at Cornell University. This continues to suggest

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