Abstracts from 2002 American Society of Agronomy Meetings

Fungicide Efficacy

Many turfgrass managers experienced "failures," or a perceived lack of effectiveness of many fungicides this season. A recent study by researchers at Rutgers University evaluated the effect of irrigation, spray volume and clipping management on the effectiveness of trifloxystrobin (a new strobilurin fungicide) on brown patch. They determined that maximum foliar absorption (32-49%) was attained within 1 hour of application with no further absorption occurring after 4 hours. A follow up study found that when the fungicide was applied in 1.5 gallons of water per 1000 square feet, irrigating more than 12 minutes after application did not reduce brown patch control. Also, the type of nozzle did not influence control, however applications below 1 gallon per 1000 square feet were less effective. Interestingly, returning clippings improved control 25-49%.

Weed Control in Ornamental Grasses

A study was conducted in 2000-2001 on 35 ornamental grass varieties common to northern Midwest landscapes. Grass and broadleaf weeds can be difficult to manage in nurseries and landscapes and the use of herbicides would be critical for effective weed control, however safety is not well known. Neal and Senesac have published information in Weed Fact Sheets for New York over the last decade, yet recent work is not available. The Illinois trial investigated clopyralid (lontrel), isoxaben (Gallery—Not Labelled in NY) and isoxaben plus trifluralin (Snapshot). In the first study, clopyralid was applied at 1x and 2x the recommended rate for postemergence control and no injury was observed. A second study found that isoxaben and isoxaben plus trifluralin did not injure ornamental grasses. These materials offer excellent options for weed control in ornamental grasses and clopyralid especially will still be active under cool temperatures.

Fine Fescue Wear Tolerance

The use of fine leaf fescues for shade and lawn areas provides excellent performance especially when a low input turfgrass system is required (less fertilizers, less pesticides and less water). However, fine fescues have not performed well under traffic. A study conducted in Wisconsin evaluated the fine leaf fescues mowed just under 1" under simulated golf cart traffic over a 4 year period. At best, across all species, the varieties rated fair but acceptable. Chewings fescue rated the highest followed by strong creeping red. Hard fescues were very poor under traffic and suffered from summer patch over the study period. Also, as a species, chewings and hard fescues resisted dollar spot while dollar spot resistance was cultivar dependent for the red fescues. For more specific recommendations please consult the Guidelines for Selecting Turfgrass Species and Varieties in New York (2001-2003).

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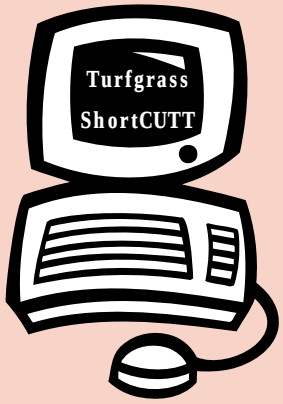

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Scanning the Journals

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