

TURF TWISTERS

POA ANNUA CONTROL IN BERMUDA FAIRWAYS

Question: I have been told Paraquat has been giving good control of *Poa annua* on dormant bermuda here in the South. Is this a good practice? (Georgia)

Answer: If you are sure the bermuda is dormant, one quart of Paraquat per acre has given control of most weeds, *Poa annua* included. It would be advisable to spray a small area the first year and observe it under your growing conditions. You may find reduced rates will give good control. The spray equipment must distribute the chemical evenly or streaking will occur. Do not plan to seed immediately after spraying.

GOLFER DAMAGE TO WINTER GREENS

Question: Is there an effective means of determining how much damage golfers can do to greens in wet or cold weather? (Missouri)

Answer: Quite a lot has been written regarding this problem and numerous talks have been given at turf conferences; the following quite well summarizes this information:

1. Do not play when the soil is saturated with water or overwet. This means that shoes actually sink through the soil or carts leave ruts. Not too often does this condition prevail.
2. This is of paramount importance: Do not walk on grass when a "white frost" is visible. When this is done, ice crystals in the cell vacuole will cause cell wall rupturing and death to the plant.
3. Never allow traffic on soil, especially putting greens, when all but the upper one or two inches of the soil is frozen. This can cause permanent damage to turf, as well as develop rough, bumpy putting conditions.

OVERSEEDING AND PYTHIUM

Question: There has been Pythium on overseeding of bermuda in the fall and again in the spring. What is the best practice for control at this time? (Florida)

Answer: *Pythium aphanidermatum* (pythium blight) is most common on grasses used for overseeding. However, other Pythium can be present. The use of 8 to 16 ounces of 50% Captan plus an antibiotic such as Actidion at the company's recommended rate per 1,000 square feet at seeding time has been very effective. Also, a strict weekly spray of fungicide (Thiram, Kromad, Daconil 2787, etc.) while establishing the seedlings and Dexon during Pythium outbreaks has been very effective in controlling this pest. Even under close supervision, occasionally disease can develop. (Note: use of manufacturer's name is for illustration only and does not constitute a recommendation.)