

The harvest forecast; Fall seed availability

Once again, we are tempting Mother Nature by presenting our second annual turfgrass seed harvest availability outlook. Comments from most growers indicate that conditions are favorable for a good harvest. Rust has hit the fields a little earlier than usual, but no more severely than usual. The fields in northern Minnesota need rain. Figures for seed grown there could fluctuate depending upon how much (or little) the area receives.

Demand for most of the proprietary grasses is increasing significantly. This could be due in part to an increased demand from our industry, however, the homeowner market demand is expected to increase dramatically, as more and more people stay close to home and tend to their yards.

Again, we remind you that the harvest is subject to many factors. Rain, at the wrong time, can delay harvest, or if the seed is swathed on the ground, it can beat the seed off where it is not recoverable. Until the seed is in the bag, this is a forecast. However, if there is a significant deviation from these predictions, we will let you know through the magazine.

The following information was supplied by representatives of the seed companies listed at the end. The figures are percentages of anticipated demand that the representatives feel the harvest of a variety will allow them to meet. If the variety that you are planning to purchase seems to be low, you should act promptly to secure a source for your needs.

The following seed companies participated in this forecast:

Agriculture Service Corporation

Salem, Oregon
E.F. Burlingham & Sons
 Forest Grove, Oregon
Great Western Seed Co.
 Albany, Oregon
Jacklin Seed Company
 Post Falls, Idaho
J&L Adikes, Inc.
 Jamaica, New York

International Seeds Inc.

Halsey, Oregon
Lofts Pedigreed Seed, Inc.
 Bound Brook, New Jersey
Northrup King Company
 Minneapolis, Minnesota
The O.M. Scott & Sons Company
 Marysville, Ohio
Oseco Inc.
 Brampton, Ontario, Canada
Pickseed West, Inc.
 Tangent, Oregon
Turf-Seed, Inc.
 Hubbard, Oregon
Warren's Turf Nursery
 Palos Hills, Illinois

Ron Morris

Kentucky bluegrass

Adelphi	91%
America	100%
Aquila	75%
A-34(Bensun)	25%
Banff	75%
Baron	100%
Birka	100%
Bonnieblue	100%
Bristol	100%
Cheri	100%
Common	100%
Columbia	100%
Eclipse	90%
Enmundi	100%
Fylking	100%
Glade	98%
Georgetown	Ltd.
Majestic	100%
Merion	100%
Merit	100%
Newport	100%
Nugget	75%
Parade	93%
Park	65%
Pennstar	100%
Ram I	100%
Rugby	60%
Scenic	100%
Shasta	100%
Sydsport	100%
Touchdown	85%
Vantage	100%
Victa	100%
Wabash	50%

Fescue

Agram chewings	75%
Alta common tall	100%
Atlanta	100%
Banner	100%
Beaumont meadow	10%
Biljart	100%
Checker chewings	100%
Chewings'	100%
Clemfine tall	Ltd.
Creeping red	100%
Dawson red	75%
Ensylva creeping red	100%
Falcon tall	40%
Fawn tall	100%
Fortress creeping red	100%
Highlight chewings	100%
Hounddog tall	10%
Jamestown	100%
K-31 tall	100%
Koket chewings	100%
Olympic tall	Ltd.
Pennlawn red	100%
Rebel tall	10%
Reliant hard	Ltd.
Ruby red	70%
Scaldis hard	70%
Shadow chewings	Ltd.
Shannon tall	Ltd.
Tournament hard	50%
Waldina hard	Ltd.

Ryegrass

Annual	100%
Barry	100%
Belle	100%
Birdie	100%
Blazer	80%
Caravelle	100%
Citation	100%
Common perennial	100%
Dasher	80%
Delray	80%
Derby	100%
Diplomat	100%
Elka	75%
Fiesta	80%
Goalie	80%
Hunter	100%
Jackpot	50%
Loretta	100%

Continues on page 32

LP-200	100%
Manhattan	75%
NK-200	100%
Omega	80%
Pennant	80%
Pennfine	75%
Premier	80%
Regal	100%
Yorktown	75%
Yorktown II	100%

Bentgrass

Astoria	20%
Bardot colonial	100%
Emerald	100%
Exeter colonial	100%
Carmen	Ltd.
Highlight colonial	100%
Kingstown velvet	100%
Penncross	100%
Penneagle	78%
Seaside	100%

Others

'Fulfs' Puccinellia distans	60%
Redtop Poa alba	100%
Reubens Canada bluegrass	100%
Sabre Poa trivialis	100%

increased.

Less Than Half The Average

"We only applied 3.2 inches of water this year, less than half of what we used to apply to our course under normal conditions," reports Portz. "Neighboring courses began watering in June. We didn't even consider irrigating until July, and actually didn't make the first watering until July 15. Given these same conditions two years ago, I'd estimate I would have had to apply close to nine inches of water."

Having cut his irrigation needs in half, Portz made only eight waterings between July and mid-September, one of which was to wash in an application of Pre-San. "Looking back on the situation, I feel we could have watered even less," he contends. "That would have brought the poa infestation down even lower. But, not having dealt with this situation before, I was somewhat hesitant as to how far I could stress the new turf. Next year, if we have the same conditions, I hope to cut back even further."

Fewer waterings also helped save labor, conserve water, and reduce wear-and-tear on the pumps, says Portz. "It's impossible to figure how much we saved on electricity. But, water and labor costs were cut by 50 percent, and we spent no money on overtime because extensive irrigation wasn't needed and we didn't syringe one green or fairway."

The greatest cost efficiencies, however, were achieved in the area of water conservation, Dave points out. "With a low water table due to the drought and not knowing if the soil moisture would be replaced before the ground froze, we might have been faced with a critical situation if a similar drought were to occur next year. Since conservation is foremost in every superintendent's mind, and our new turf requires a minimum of water, we were able to conserve enough water so that we can hopefully irrigate all the greens and trees next year, irregardless of the amount of rainfall."

potential for outbreaks of pithium and brown patch which thrive under high, humid temperatures," he points out. "But, if I was dealing with a poa course, that would have had to be water constantly under this year's conditions, we probably would have had severe disease problems."

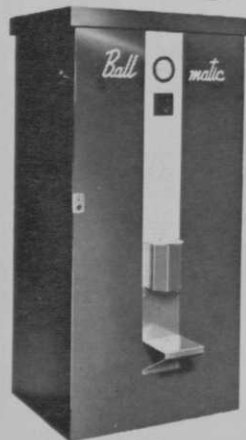
Many courses in southeastern Pennsylvania made 12 or more fungicide applications plus several spot applications throughout the season. "We saved close to \$5,000 on fungicide alone," claims Portz, "not to mention the aesthetic benefits of no brown patches."

In weighing all the benefits of the renovation, Portz is quick to note that improved playing conditions are the bottom line. Mowers can now be benchset at one-inch all season long, while the poa-infested course required cutting the fairways higher during the stressful summer months. As a result, the new turf provides the membership with a uniform playing surface all season long.

Another new advantage is that golf carts are now permitted on the fairways year-round, a great improvement over the days when they were restricted to prevent additional turf loss over the summer. "We lost less than one percent of our turf this year, if that much," Portz contends. "In a season such as we had, with a poa-infested course, we could lose as much as 10 percent. And we've never had a summer this dry."

Although he is modest about the beauty of the course, a post-renovation increase of 30 percent of in-cart revenues and 10 percent of guest fees confirms that it is not simply in the eye of the beholder.

"The most satisfying aspect of all," concludes Dave Portz, "is that we're now able to provide a uniform turf cover all year long. There are no soggy wet spots or patches of dead turf and the membership is very, very happy. That's the bottom line: keeping the membership happy with a turf management program that is cost effective so we can devote our energies and money to other course improvements. **GB**



The QUALITY STANDARD of the INDUSTRY!

Saves Time!

Increases Profits!

The BEST quality all-purpose self-contained golf ball dispenser on the market. Automatically washes, counts, stores and dispenses balls into baskets for customers. Coin, token or remote control operation. Always on the job! **CALL or WRITE!**

Get details and literature of Ball-O-Matic and Bucket Boy dispensers, they pay for themselves!

(219) 234-0075

TEUTONIX INC.

P.O. Box 1895
South Bend, IN 46634

Write 113 on reader service card

Less Fungicide

In addition to cutting irrigation, the taming of poa has also helped Portz cut fungicide treatments to one application versus 12 just two years ago. "The dry conditions reduced the

If you would like a free slide and cassette presentation package discussing golf course renovation, write to: Golf Course Presentation, PO Box 15010, Little Rock, Ark. 72231