Use of Trimmit 2SC for Suppression of Annual Bluegrass
On Golf Course Fairways in Minnesota

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Introduction

Recent winters in Minnesota have led to considerable annual bluegrass death on golf course putting surfaces and fairways. These harsh winters have proven to be a good control method for removal of annual bluegrass on turf surfaces that are predominately creeping bentgrass. However, a large number of golf clubs in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area are just the opposite, predominately annual bluegrass with patches of creeping bentgrass.

In addition, some of our older clubs are planning considerable renovation projects to restore golf course playing conditions to the original design specifications. Three of these courses are North Oaks Golf Club, Minneapolis Golf Club, and Golden Valley Country Club. These three astute golf course superintendents have approached the University of Minnesota requesting information on how to transition their annual bluegrass without harming the bentgrass.

The purpose of this research project is to develop an annual bluegrass removal/transition program that golf course superintendents can use in Minnesota. Previous research has been conducted using Trimmit in North Carolina (Fred Yelverton) and Illinois (Bruce Branham). Unfortunately, our winters in Minnesota are unique and provide an opportunity for research that North Carolina and Illinois cannot duplicate.

Materials and Methods

This research project will evaluate the use of Trimmit 2SC for suppression of annual bluegrass. Timing and rates of application in addition to the number of applications will be evaluated. The following is a list of proposed treatments following discussion with the superintendents and the Trimmit label.

Treatment initiation is May for spring timing (B), July for summer timing (C), and September for fall timing (A). Treatments 19 and 20 will be applied from April to October at 4 week intervals. Roundup Pro was selected to demonstrate the use of a nonselective herbicide.

For those plots that only receive one application of Trimmit per season or Glyphosate, bentgrass slit seeding will occur at the recommended interval following application (2 to 4 wks).

Prior to treatment initiation, plots will be rated for percent annual bluegrass and percent creeping bentgrass. Following application of treatments, plots will be rated for turfgrass quality, phytotoxicity, percent annual bluegrass and percent creeping bentgrass.

Duration of experiment: To develop an annual bluegrass removal program, the experiment will continue through 2007.