

STOP 4

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Winter Desiccation Control. Eighteen types of covers were evaluated for effectiveness in the winter protection of a Toronto creeping bentgrass turf cut at .25 inch. Materials evaluated included polyethylene, Saran-94%, WX246, S-782-1, S-782, Soil Retention Mat, Saran-63%, Famcomat, Poly-1, topdressing, Wiltpruf, and Tufflote. The specific characteristics investigated were (a) insulating value, (b) desiccation prevention, (c) spring greenup, and (d) physical stability. Evaluations have been conducted under both controlled climate and field conditions.

WX246, S-782 and the Soil Retention Mat have given good insulation, desiccation protection and spring greenup. The spring greenup and winter desiccation protection of Saran-94%, Famcomat, and the polyethylene cover were excellent but the temperature insulating value was inferior. Wiltpruf was not any better than the untreated check plot. The initial year of study indicates that it is feasible to develop a combination cover for both low temperature and desiccation protection.