

STOP: 2

Turfgrass Renovation

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Turfgrass renovation is defined as turfgrass improvements beyond routine cultural practices usually involving reseeding or replanting into existing live or dead vegetation. The steps to renovation include:

1. Kill undesirable species
2. Thatch removal if necessary
3. Cultivation (coring, grooving, spiking)
4. Fertilize and lime if necessary
5. Seeding

Times when renovation should be considered are:

1. Turfgrass areas are dead from improper cultural practices.
2. Injury caused by disease, such as Fusarium blight.
3. Invasion of creeping bentgrass, poa trivialis, quackgrass or other unwanted perennial grasses such as Fusarium blight susceptible cultivars of Kentucky bluegrass.

Experimentally, Roundup has been used effectively in controlling perennial grasses. Since Roundup is foliarly absorbed and translocates to underground parts, it is preferable to allow the grass to grow to a height of 3-4 inches (6-8 inches when quackgrass or tall fescue is the target pest). Roundup will kill neither rhizomes that are detached from green leaf tissue nor seed in the soil. Therefore, the area should be relatively undisturbed a month or more prior to treatment.

The following procedure is recommended for renovation:

1. Apply Roundup at 3 lbs. A.I./acre
2. Wait 3 days
3. Cultivate (groove) and reseed. The grasses will not appear damaged for 1 week to 10 days.

An alternate more thorough method for dense quackgrass:

1. Apply Roundup at 3 lbs. A.I./acre
2. Wait 3 days, cultivate (groove, till)
3. Allow regrowth from rhizomes and/or seed for 2-3 weeks.
4. Respray Roundup at 2 lbs. A.I./acre
5. Wait 3 days, cultivate and seed.

From past experience, some grasses seem more difficult to kill than others. Below are some categories of the ease in killing green leaf tissue.

Very Easy

creeping bentgrass
Kentucky bluegrass
Perennial Ryegrass

Moderately
Easy

Tall fescue, Quackgrass
Red fescue

Moderately
Difficult

hard fescue
sheep fescue
dormant warm-season grasses

For those grasses listed as difficult, be sure the turfgrass is actively growing at the time of application. Once the grass is completely dead however, new growth most often is exhibited by quackgrass from detached rhizomes and Poa annua from seed in the soil.

Good renovation techniques provide for good seed-soil contact. The one step grooving and seeding into grooves has resulted in superior establishment of desirable turfgrass species.