

## **Weed Control Strategies during Kentucky Bluegrass Establishment**

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The challenge for the sports turf manager is to sustain a dense turf stand throughout the competitive season. However, oftentimes, regardless of proper management practices, areas of the fields or entire fields can be worn very thin or even bare due to their intense use. Consequently, the perennial focus of athletic field management is the establishment of desirable turfgrass species frequently during poor seeding conditions. The most desirable species for athletic fields in a cool climate is Kentucky bluegrass. However, it has a slow germination rate of 10-14 days and matures slowly. Suboptimal seeding conditions, combined with the slow germination and development of the desired species makes the establishment of a dense, weed free turf very difficult. The objective of this study was to investigate the effects of various pre-emergent and post-emergent herbicides applied at different times during the establishment process. Eighteen weed control strategies were investigated. Each of the following products were applied on the day of seeding, 10 days after seeding (DAS), 20 DAS, and 30 DAS: Drive, Dimension, Tupersan, and Gallery. There were two control treatments. One control treatment represented the conventional post-emergent strategy by applying a tank mix of Drive + Buctril 30 DAS. The other control received no herbicide applications.