

REFINING POSTEMERGENCE ANNUAL BLUEGRASS CONTROL WITH BISPYRIBAC (VELOCITY)

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Bispyribac-sodium (Velocity) has proven to be an effective postemergence annual bluegrass control in creeping bentgrass fairways. These research projects are focused on refining the application interval and seasonal parameters to maximize effectiveness. Most protocols involve multiple low-rate applications made on short intervals either starting in early June or mid-August. Research at the Hancock Turfgrass Center has concentrated on the August treatments due to the time of year and the typical germination period for annual bluegrass.

Application Interval: The objective of this study was to examine the influence of three application intervals on the efficacy of bispyribac for postemergence annual bluegrass control in and established annual bluegrass/creeping bentgrass fairway. A total of 60 grams of active ingredient per acre (g ai/A) were applied to each treatment area. Individual applications were made at 20 g ai/A either once, twice, or three times per week. Treatments were made July/August of 2005 and 2006. Results from this trial show increased efficacy when treatments are made at intervals shorter than seven days. The shorter application window necessary for making all treatments also reduces the number of days that discoloration is evident on the creeping bentgrass and therefore could be a benefit to the superintendent trying to minimize aesthetic interruption to the golfer.

Younger is Easier: This study investigated the effectiveness of bispyribac on annual bluegrass populations of different ages. Glyphosate (Roundup) was applied at various intervals throughout the spring to establish annual bluegrass populations of different ages. The bispyribac treatment series was initiated on July 27, 2006 to annual bluegrass populations with ages of 28, 51, 66 and 93 days and 10 years. As expected, annual bluegrass is much easier to control at a young age. This study would lend credence to the idea that the manager should aggressively eliminate annual bluegrass soon after establishment. Keeping annual bluegrass a bay from the beginning will certainly provide the best opportunity for success down the road. Bispyribac would likely be an important part of that strategy within the first year of establishment. Successful low-rate applications have been made as-soon-as 30 days after germination in the late summer with 90-95 percent control being observed the following spring.