

SEASHORE PASPALUM CONTROL?

In my recent travels one of the questions that arises very consistently is a possible chemical control for seashore paspalum (*Paspalum vaginatum*) which behaves as a weed in other desired warm-season turfgrasses, especially in hybrid bermudagrass (*Cynodon dactylon* x *Cynodon transvaalensis*) putting greens. The problem with seashore paspalum, especially on putting greens, is that the vertical leaf growth rate is extremely rapid compared to that for hybrid bermudagrass. Consequently even though the greens are mowed daily in early morning, the more rapid, patchy leaf growth results in erratic ball roll by midday. Unfortunately, there is no published research data available concerning potential chemicals that can be used in the selective control of seashore paspalum.

However, this author was involved in one research study that was summarized on the previous two pages. The major objective was to identify herbicides that could be used selectively or safely on Adalayd seashore paspalum. The converse relationship would be to use that data to provide leads as to herbicides that might be effective in the control of the seashore paspalum. Summary Table 4 was organized using this approach.

There are four herbicides listed that may have potential for the selective control of certain genotypes of seashore paspalum in certain warm-season turfgrass species. They are atrazine, simizine, metribuzin, and asulam. Atrazine and simizine are labeled for selective use on all three warm-season turfgrasses — bermudagrass, zoysiagrass, and St. Augustinegrass; while asulam can be used safely on bermudagrass and St. Augustinegrass, but metribuzin can be used only on bermudagrass. If atrazine, simizine or asulam is being considered for use on bermudagrass, the label should be checked carefully or consultation made with the manufacturer as to its selectivity or safety on a specific species or cultivar of bermudagrass. Also, note that metribuzin is not labeled for use on closely mowed turfs, especially greens, tees, and collars of golf courses

Table 4. Summary table regarding four herbicides that may have potential for the control of certain genotypes of seashore paspalum in three warm-season grass species.

Herbicide generic/trade names and rate (kg AI/ha)	Tolerance of three turfgrass species to four herbicides labeled for use in the United States			Seashore paspalum control 4 weeks after application in mid-spring***
	bermudagrasses (<i>Cynodon</i> spp.)	zoysiagrasses (<i>Zoysia</i> spp.)	St. Augustinegrasses (<i>Stenotaphrum secundatum</i>)	
atrazine (Aatrex 80W) at 2.24 kg	T*	T	T	9.0
simizine (Princep 8W) at 2.24 kg	T*	T	T	9.0
metribuzin (Sencor 50W) at 0.56 kg	T**			9.0
asulam (Asulox 3.34F) at 2.35 kg	T*		T	9.0

* Injury may occur to certain species and cultivars. Be sure to read the label before using.

** Not labeled for use on one or more of the following: putting greens, native soil greens, tees or collars on golf courses; and on similar closely mowed turfs.

*** taken from Table 3.

T - adequate tolerance when used according to the label, as approved by the United States EPA.

When utilizing this approach, note that the research cited involved the Adalayd cultivar. It can not be assumed that all other genotypes of seashore paspalum would behave similarly. However, these data do provide important leads on how to proceed. Using this information, some test plots could be established on the particular seashore paspalum problem in a given turf area to confirm its effectiveness on that particular genotype under those environmental, soil and cultural conditions. In other words, proceed with caution by conducting your own "real world" experimental tests before attempting to use a particular herbicide on extensive turf areas.