

(Turf Grass Species cont'd.)

ENCROACHMENT. It will take time to shift this equilibrium but a shift will result from dedicated and vigorous annual overseedings.

One last problem facing every superintendent, is that of every day management of rough areas. With shrinking or stagnated budgets, more and more superintendents are looking for ways to reduce rough maintenance costs, yet make their roughs look like they are a viable part of the normal maintenance program.

How is this accomplished, you may ask? With the proper use of low management, slow growing BLUEGRASSES and or blends of FINE FESCUES a Scottish links affect can be accomplished for deep, unmown rough areas. To add a touch of color to these areas a sod cutter can be used to open strategic beds for wild flower introduction. Which WILDFLOWERS should I use? This will depend on one simple questions: CAN YOU BURN IN YOUR AREA?

With most long term prairie grasses and forbs burn management is a very real tool. This tool is used to manage annual weed encroachment, dead matted material, insects and diseases that will soon turn your beautiful wild flower area into a large weed patch.

If burning these areas is not a realistic program then maybe short term wild flowers should be looked at with mowing and overseeding with light rates of short term flowers every fall. Solid beds of flowers can also be used to accent many different parts of the golf course or prairie grasses can be used to screen tees from greens or any other area. Which grasses should I use? This will depend on soils, and growing height requirements.

The end result of proper overseeding is a golf course that has more uniform turf with reduced maintenance problems and reduced overall costs threw proper Integrated Pest Management.

## And a pinch of baking soda

Ready for a really handy fungicide? Dr. Kenneth Horst and his colleagues at Cornell University are seeing startling results using sodium bicarbonate (baking soda) to control powdery mildew and other fungal diseases. The compound, mixed with various spreader/sticker agents, not only prevents the growth of several fungal diseases, it cleans up plants already stricken.

Horst's work is primarily with ornamentals, but colleagues have had good results with grains, cucurbits, small fruit, and turf. Horst is unsure why a common compound such as baking soda works against diseases, but he says it controls mildews better than any other product he has seen, including those chemicals specifically marketed for mildew control.

Working with Church and Dwight, makers of Arm and Hammer baking soda, Horst recently met with EPA representatives in Washington. The goal: to get pesticide registration waivers or exemptions so that this product, can be used in the ag market. The meetings, says Horst, were "very productive", and he expects to have sodium bicarbonate registered for use on ornamentals within 8 to 12 months. Registration for food crops would follow quickly, he believes.

**Credit: Pesticides Coordinator Report**



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