

Table 1. Visual estimates of the effect of overseeding establishment treatments on percent turfgrass cover.^z

Overseeding treatment	11/17	11/22	11/29	12/6	12/20	12/27	1/24	2/24	3/24	Mean
No preparation	9 by	46 b	73 ab	87 ab	82 a	83 ab	90 abc	94 b	97 a	79 b
Scalp	7 b	46 b	70 b	82 b	75 a	78 b	85 c	90 b	94 a	75 b
Verticut	12 b	49 b	79 ab	89 ab	78 a	82 ab	90 bc	94 b	96 a	80 b
Scalp & verticut	10 b	46 b	70 b	81 b	75 a	78 b	86 c	90 b	94 a	75 b
Verticut & topdress	57 a	85 a	92 ab	97 a	87 a	90 ab	96 ab	98 a	98 a	92 a
Sandwich	58 a	89 a	94 a	97 a	90 a	91 a	97 a	98 a	98 a	93 a

^zPercent cover from 0-100 as visual rating.

^yMean separation in columns by the Waller-Duncan k-ratio t-test, 5% level. Angular transformation was performed for statistical analyses.

Table 2. Visual estimates of the effects of overseeding establishment treatments on turf quality.^z

Overseeding treatment	11/22	11/29	12/6	12/20	12/28	1/24	2/24	3/24	Mean
No preparation	4.7 by	6.0 ab	7.3 ab	6.3 bc	6.3 ab	7.3 b	7.7 b	8.3 a	7.1 b
Scalp	4.3 b	5.7 b	6.7 b	6.0 c	6.0 b	7.0 b	7.0 b	7.7 a	6.6 b
Verticut	5.0 b	6.3 ab	7.3 ab	7.0 ab	7.0 ab	7.7 b	7.7 b	7.3 a	7.1 b
Scalp & verticut	4.3 b	5.7 b	6.7 b	6.3 bc	6.7 ab	7.0 b	7.3 b	7.7 a	6.7 b
Verticut & topdress	7.0 a	7.0 ab	8.3 ab	7.3 a	7.7 a	8.7 a	9.0 a	8.3 a	8.1 a
Sandwich	7.7 a	7.7 a	8.7 a	7.3 a	7.7 a	8.7 a	9.0 a	8.0 a	8.3 a

^zQuality as visual ratings from 1-9, 9 = best.

^yMean separation in columns by the Waller-Duncan k-ratio t-test, 5% level.

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ferent from the no preparation or verticut treatments. Thus, only at 3 wk after overseeding was there equivalent cover on plots not receiving topdressing as part of the treatment. Similar trends were noted throughout the experiment period until the last evaluation on 24 March. Averaged over the study period, topdressed plots had higher percent cover ratings.

Turf quality ratings, which subjectively combine color, texture, density, and uniformity, closely followed the percent cover ratings (Table 2). Turf quality was greatly improved by topdressing at the first evaluation on 22 November and was consistently higher for the topdressed treatments through November although there was no difference between topdressed plots and the no preparation or verticut treatments on 29 November. Evaluations during the remainder of the study indicate that topdressed plots had high turf quality ratings.

Ball roll data taken 10 days following overseeding indicated the sandwich treatment in the north direction had a lower length of roll (Table 3). The mean over both directions indicated no differences in ball roll lengths among treatments. Thus topdressing did not significantly slow ball roll. According to USGA Green Section standards experimental treatments would rate in the medium-slow

ball roll category. This can be attributed to the stage of transition of the overseeding and partially due to the 6 mm mowing height. But overall turf quality on the topdressed plots was excellent even though temperatures were higher than average through December and some bermudagrass growth persisted almost until January.

Conclusions

Topdressing after seeding or sandwiching the seed between 2 layers of topdressing produced the highest percent cover and best turf quality during the initial establishment period. One week following overseeding, topdressed plots had 4 to 5 times more turf cover than any other treatment. This advantage in germination rate persisted for the first month. Percent cover ratings were not different between the single topdressed and double topdressed (sandwich) plots. Thus there appears to be no benefit from the added work of double topdressing or sandwiching the seed. Ball roll data indicated no differences among treatments at 10 days after overseeding. Therefore topdressing after seeding benefited seedling establishment without notable effects on ball roll performance.

Table 3. Measurements of the effect of various overseeding establishment treatments on golf ball roll.

Overseeding treatment	Ball Roll Lengths ^z		
	North	South	Mean
cm.....		
No preparation	183 ay	183 a	173 a
Scalp	173 ab	170 a	173 a
Verticut	168 ab	163 a	165 a
Scalp & verticut	168 ab	165 a	168 a
Scalp & verticut & topdress	165 ab	160 a	163 a
Sandwich	155 b	163 a	163 a

^zMean of 3 rolls using USGA Stimpmeter.

^yMean separation in columns by the Waller-Duncan k-ratio t-test, 5% level.

Literature Cited

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Guest Editorial

By JOE SNOOK
Riverbend Country Club

One by one, our pesticides are being confiscated by a bureaucratic system which seemingly feels that we should all suffer because of the misuse by a small number of applicators.

Why are our elected officials and government employees not following their guidelines and existing laws? (The Florida Department of Agriculture recommended the excessive rates of EDB as a buffer treatment in citrus groves — more than 10 times the highest rate indicated on the label!) Golf course superintendents were advised during pesticide licensing of a fine of \$25,000 and a prison term of up to one year for knowingly misusing a pesticide.

The headline in local newspaper, as some of you may have already seen, stated "EDB Ban Is a Mistake". Quoting from that article, "We are concerned that the decision to ban EDB is based on the momentum of hysteria and is not scientifically based" said Dr. Elisabeth Whelen, Director of the American Council on Science and Health. Dr. Milton Ovyne, National Coordinator for the U.S. Department of Agriculture said that he believes banning EDB was imprudent. He stated, "EDB isn't even in the same league with cigarettes"!

If enough pressure is exerted by the Florida G.C.S.A. and G.C.S.A.A. along with an edict for a change of the political boondoggling we have grown accustomed to, perhaps we can retain and have returned to us that which is rightfully ours. I have advised my representatives, both state and federal, of my feelings concerning total banning of pesticides without total regard of all segments affected. The next time you receive a questionnaire from your congressman, please take the time to express our concern on this matter. Hopefully, we can put an end to the massacre of our valued chemicals.■

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