

Poa trivialis pushing perennial ryegrass in some overseeding areas

By MARK LESLIE

The staple turf seed for superintendents who must overseed remains perennial ryegrass. But a trend toward more blends using poa trivialis and bentgrass or ryegrass continues.

Half the ryegrass sold to golf courses is for overseeding. Unlike other grasses, which are selected for their ability to live through all circumstances, the best overseeding grasses need not have those grand qualities.

"If it stays green, good. Quality is secondary," said Skip Lynch, national sales manager for Seed Research of Oregon.

"We are selecting perennial ryes just for color, texture and winter color," said Tubbs. "In the South, all they want is dark, quick cover for the winter months. If you select a good variety for New Jersey, you get one that's too strong and hangs on too long for overseeding."

The other half of the perennial rye market — as a permanent turf or mix in the North — is a premium market, a different creature altogether.

Meanwhile, production of poa trivialis in the last five to seven years has tripled in Oregon — a forceful sign of its growing popularity.

"Poa triv transitions much easier than perennial ryegrass and, in general, a mixture of ryegrass and poa triv will transition more smoothly than a straight ryegrass mix," said Tom Stanley, marketing manager of Turf Seed in Hubbard, Ore.

"It comes up as quickly as ryegrass. You can mow it closer. Some of the new varieties are very dark," Tubbs said, adding that the old varieties were light-green.

Superintendents are using a blend of poa trivialis and bentgrass — sometimes 60-40 or, in Fred Klauk Jr.'s case, 75-25. It is a trend that began in Florida, said Klauk, superintendent at TPC-Sawgrass in Jacksonville, Fla., adding, "I've been doing it for 15 years."

One Georgia superintendent said most courses in the Augusta area overseed with bentgrass or a bent-poa trivialis blend.

With this mix, Tubbs said, crews "can put

the seed right on the Bermudagrass. The seed is very small. It falls into the nape of Bermuda. The poa triv comes up in five to seven days, so they get quick green cover from it and it can be mowed at 1/16 inch. That gives the bentgrass time to establish — about

28 days for a full germination.

"A guy doesn't have to close his greens. The turf gets established under playing conditions. And it provides fast putting and looks great in the winter but dies in May when Bermuda is trying to come back."

Breeders are developing for speed in all varieties. "We are screening the seedlings of all our varieties and getting ones that come up first, hoping to shave time off germination," Tubbs said. "Overnight is not too fast."

Continued on next page

Leading cultivars in National Perennial Ryegrass Test's 3rd-year results

Name	CO1	DC1	IA1	ID3	IL1	IL2	KS2	KY1	MD1	MI1	NE1	NJ1	NJ2	NJ3	OR7	OR9	UB1	VA1	WA1	WA3	Mean	
*Cutter	7.2	3.5	6.8	6.0	5.7	8.2	6.5	6.3	6.7	5.5	5.8	7.0	5.4	6.0	6.6	6.5	7.3	5.5	7.0	4.0	6.2	
*Repell II	7.2	3.3	6.3	6.1	6.6	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.9	5.7	6.0	7.0	6.3	5.3	6.2	6.6	7.3	5.4	6.3	4.0	6.1	
*Seville	7.1	4.6	6.1	5.9	6.5	8.5	6.3	6.1	6.5	5.5	4.8	6.3	5.8	5.3	6.2	6.8	7.1	5.1	6.7	4.8	6.1	
*Prelude II	6.9	2.6	6.8	6.7	5.7	7.4	5.5	6.1	6.5	5.9	6.0	7.0	7.1	5.7	6.1	6.6	7.4	4.7	6.8	4.2	6.1	
*Prizm	7.3	3.0	6.4	5.6	6.1	8.3	6.2	6.0	6.4	5.7	5.4	7.5	6.2	5.5	6.2	6.7	7.3	5.2	6.6	4.0	6.1	
*Palmer II	7.1	2.9	5.8	5.3	5.9	7.3	6.2	6.9	6.3	5.8	5.3	6.6	6.8	5.2	6.7	6.6	7.6	5.5	7.0	4.5	6.1	
*Advent	7.1	3.3	7.2	6.2	5.9	7.5	6.7	5.8	6.4	5.5	5.0	6.9	6.1	5.8	5.5	6.7	7.0	5.4	6.8	4.5	6.1	
*Riviera II	6.9	3.7	6.9	5.8	5.8	7.9	6.3	6.7	6.4	5.7	5.7	6.7	5.4	5.7	5.8	6.6	7.2	5.1	6.9	4.0	6.1	
*Precision	6.6	3.9	7.4	6.2	5.4	8.1	6.0	6.8	6.3	5.5	5.7	6.3	6.4	5.7	5.8	6.6	6.4	4.9	7.1	4.2	6.1	
PST-2ROR	6.9	3.5	7.2	6.3	N/A	7.9	6.3	6.4	6.8	6.3	5.8	5.6	6.0	5.2	6.3	6.4	6.6	4.8	6.7	4.2	6.1	
*SR 4200	7.1	2.4	6.2	6.7	6.3	6.9	6.7	6.4	6.8	5.7	5.8	7.0	5.3	5.3	5.8	6.4	6.9	4.8	7.1	4.7	6.0	
*APM	6.8	3.0	7.1	5.9	6.3	7.9	6.5	5.9	6.7	5.7	5.0	6.5	5.3	5.0	6.5	6.8	7.2	5.1	6.4	4.7	6.0	
*Stallion Select	6.9	3.4	6.8	5.9	5.9	6.9	5.7	6.1	6.7	5.7	5.9	7.5	5.8	6.2	5.8	6.4	7.2	4.5	6.8	4.0	6.0	
PST-28M	6.9	3.0	6.7	6.1	5.8	8.6	6.2	6.5	6.7	5.7	5.2	6.4	5.2	5.3	6.6	6.6	7.3	4.9	6.4	4.0	6.0	
*Morning Star	7.2	3.8	6.0	5.9	5.1	7.7	7.0	6.2	6.3	5.4	5.6	6.5	6.2	5.8	5.8	6.3	7.0	5.1	6.3	4.5	6.0	
*Brightstar	7.2	3.0	5.7	6.1	5.2	7.8	6.5	6.9	6.3	5.4	5.5	6.5	5.8	5.2	6.6	6.2	7.4	4.7	7.1	4.5	6.0	
PST-2FF	7.1	3.0	6.1	6.2	N/A	7.3	6.5	6.4	6.6	5.6	5.9	6.1	5.5	5.5	6.4	6.6	7.0	5.3	6.6	4.0	6.0	
*Delaware Dwarf	6.7	4.0	7.1	6.5	5.7	7.7	6.7	6.5	6.7	5.7	5.0	6.3	5.8	4.8	5.8	6.2	6.7	4.7	6.6	4.5	6.0	
PST-23C	7.0	4.0	5.8	6.0	N/A	8.0	6.3	6.0	6.7	6.0	5.4	5.9	5.8	5.5	6.4	6.3	7.0	4.0	6.8	4.5	6.0	
*Nighthawk	7.1	3.1	5.9	6.3	5.2	7.8	5.8	6.6	6.4	5.5	6.3	6.9	5.9	6.0	6.2	6.4	6.7	4.0	7.2	4.0	6.0	
*Yorktown III	6.9	3.5	6.4	5.0	6.4	6.9	6.0	6.3	6.8	5.5	5.3	7.0	5.4	6.0	6.5	6.8	6.9	4.4	6.8	4.5	6.0	
*Assure	7.2	3.1	5.9	5.4	4.8	8.3	6.0	7.0	6.8	5.4	5.5	6.1	5.7	5.7	5.7	6.8	7.5	5.0	7.1	4.2	6.0	
*Achiever	6.8	3.2	6.8	5.5	6.2	7.9	6.5	6.5	6.6	5.8	5.6	6.9	5.3	5.5	5.6	6.4	6.6	4.5	6.4	4.3	5.9	
*Gettysburg	6.9	3.2	6.9	6.1	5.8	7.5	5.8	6.2	6.3	6.1	4.9	6.2	6.0	5.5	6.0	6.6	7.2	5.2	6.6	4.0	5.9	
Pick EEC	6.9	3.8	6.5	6.1	5.6	7.4	5.8	6.8	6.6	5.8	5.8	6.7	5.7	5.0	4.8	6.6	6.5	4.6	7.3	4.5	5.9	
*Dandy	7.1	3.8	6.9	6.0	5.8	7.2	6.0	6.9	6.5	5.7	5.7	5.7	4.9	5.3	5.7	6.4	6.4	4.7	6.9	5.0	5.9	
*Affinity	6.8	3.5	7.3	5.4	5.6	7.7	5.7	5.8	6.4	5.5	6.0	6.4	5.8	5.2	6.2	6.6	7.0	4.6	6.4	4.3	5.9	
PST-290	6.7	3.5	7.1	5.5	5.4	6.7	6.2	6.4	6.6	5.7	5.8	6.4	5.6	5.8	6.3	6.5	6.6	4.4	6.6	4.3	5.9	
*Navajo	6.5	4.0	7.4	6.0	5.9	7.0	6.5	6.1	6.5	5.7	5.8	5.9	4.8	4.8	4.8	6.6	6.2	6.4	4.8	6.7	4.3	5.9
*Pinnacle	7.1	3.3	6.1	5.9	5.6	8.1	6.3	6.1	6.7	5.4	5.1	6.8	5.6	5.2	5.3	6.4	7.2	4.8	6.2	4.3	5.9	
*Legacy	6.9	3.8	6.4	5.8	4.7	7.7	6.2	6.8	6.4	5.5	5.4	6.2	5.5	5.3	5.9	6.6	6.9	4.8	6.7	4.2	5.9	
*Greenland	7.3	3.3	5.8	4.6	5.5	7.4	6.3	6.3	6.6	5.3	5.7	6.3	6.8	5.0	5.9	6.8	6.8	4.3	6.9	4.2	5.9	
89-666	6.8	3.6	6.0	6.0	5.7	7.5	5.7	6.2	6.5	5.6	5.6	6.6	4.9	5.0	5.1	6.3	7.4	5.3	6.6	4.3	5.8	
*Buccaneer	7.1	3.3	6.6	6.0	5.5	7.3	6.2	6.3	6.5	5.5	4.9	5.6	6.3	4.8	5.4	6.4	6.8	5.0	7.1	4.0	5.8	
*Quickstart	7.2	3.0	6.7	5.8	5.2	7.6	6.5	5.9	6.7	5.6	5.3	6.5	5.9	4.5	5.5	6.4	6.8	4.3	6.6	4.0	5.8	
*Shining Star	6.9	3.1	6.5	5.9	5.7	7.1	6.0	6.5	6.4	5.8	5.4	5.6	5.5	5.2	5.6	6.6	6.8	4.8	6.4	4.2	5.8	
*Equal	6.9	3.6	6.1	5.9	5.4	6.6	6.5	6.2	6.3	5.7	5.2	5.8	5.1	5.3	6.2	6.4	7.0	4.6	6.7	4.3	5.8	
*Envy	6.6	3.9	6.8	5.9	5.3	7.5	6.5	5.9	6.4	5.5	5.9	5.5	4.6	5.2	5.6	6.3	6.6	4.7	7.0	4.0	5.8	
*Fiesta II	6.6	3.7	7.0	5.8	4.7	6.5	7.0	6.2	6.4	5.9	5.5	5.1	4.3	5.5	5.6	6.4	6.1	4.8	7.0	4.5	5.7	
*Target	6.8	3.3	6.4	5.9	5.7	5.9	6.5	6.3	6.4	5.7	5.3	5.8	5.8	5.3	5.1	6.4	6.7	4.7	6.4	4.0	5.7	
PST-20G	7.0	3.8	7.3	5.6	5.4	6.9	6.0	5.9	6.3	5.8	5.9	4.7	4.8	4.8	6.0	6.3	6.5	4.6	6.4	4.3	5.7	
*Sherwood	6.7	3.3	6.8	5.8	5.2	7.6	6.5	4.3	6.6	5.7	5.8	5.6	4.9	5.2	5.8	6.2	6.6	4.7	6.8	4.2	5.7	
*Express	6.7	3.5	6.3	6.3	5.9	7.6	5.5	5.9	6.3	5.5	5.4	6.3	5.3	5.3	4.7	6.3	6.4	4.4	6.2	4.3	5.7	
*Essence	6.7	3.7	6.7	5.5	4.9	6.9	5.8	6.0	6.2	5.5	6.2	5.9	3.9	4.5	7.0	6.4	6.7	4.4	6.9	4.0	5.7	
*Gator	6.8	4.0	7.3	4.9	N/A	5.7	6.2	6.0	6.3	5.9	5.3	5.0	4.5	5.5	5.2	6.0	6.4	5.7	6.3	4.8	5.7	
WVFN 89-92	6.5	3.4	7.3	5.8	4.7	6.6	5.5	5.8	6.6	5.8	6.2	5.1	4.8	4.8	6.0	6.4	6.5	4.9	6.6	4.0	5.7	
*Competitor	6.3	3.8	6.2	5.8	5.1	6.6	6.2	6.2	6.4	5.7	5.4	5.1	4.1	5.2	6.2	6.3	7.1	4.6	6.8	4.2	5.7	
HE 311	6.6	3.3	7.7	6.2	5.2	5.5	6.8	6.1	6.4	5.7	5.3	4.9	5.2	5.0	5.9	6.2	6.0	4.7	6.2	4.3	5.7	
*Statesman	6.9	3.2	6.6	5.8	N/A	6.6	5.8	5.5	6.3	5.5	5.7	6.1	4.6	5.3	5.5	6.2	6.3	4.5	6.6	4.3	5.7	
*Dimension	6.9	2.8	6.9	5.6	5.1	7.7	5.3	5.9	6.4	5.5	5.3	6.6	4.8	5.0	5.5	6.5	6.5	4.5	6.2	4.0	5.7	
*Manhattan II	7.1	3.8	6.9	5.8	N/A	6.7	6.0	5.6	6.8	5.6	5.2	5.5	3.6	5.7	5.2	6.0	6.4	4.9	6.6	4.3	5.7	
LSD Value	0.5	1.0	0.9	1.1	1.0	1.4	1.3	1.2	0.5	0.6	1.0	0.9	1.4	0.9	1.0	0.4	1.1	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.2	

* — Commercially available in the U.S. in 1994.

Here are the locations of the field tests, followed by soil texture, soil pH, pounds of nitrogen applied per 1,000 square feet, mowing height in inches and irrigation practiced.

CO1 — Fort Collins, Colo., Sandy clay loam, 7.6-8.5, 4.1-5.0, 0.6-1.0, to prevent stress.

DC1 — Washington Monument Grounds, D.C., N/A.

IA1 — Ames, Iowa, sandy clay loam, 7.1-7.5, 2.1-3.0, 2.1-2.5, to prevent stress.

ID3 — Rathdrum, Idaho, silt loam and silt, 7.1-7.5, 4.1-5.0, 1.1-1.5, to prevent stress.

IL1 — Urbana, Ill., silt loam and silt, 6.1-6.5, 3.1-4.0, 1.1-1.5, to prevent stress.

IL2 — Carbondale, Ill., silty clay loam, 6.1-6.5, 4.1-5.0, 1.1-1.5, only during severe stress.

KS2 — Wichita, Kan., sandy loam, 6.6-7.0, 3.1-4.0, 1.1-1.5, to prevent stress.

KY1 — Lexington, Ky., silt loam and silt, 6.1-6.5, 2.1-3.0, 1.1-1.5, only during severe stress.

MD1 — Silver Spring, Md., sandy loam, 6.1-6.5, 4.1-5.0, 0.0-0.5, to prevent stress.

MI1 — East Lansing, Mich., sandy loam, 7.1-7.5, 3.1-4.0, 2.1-2.5, to prevent stress.

NE1 — Lincoln, Neb., sandy clay loam, 6.6-7.0, 3.1-4.0, 2.6-3.0, to prevent stress.

NJ1 — North Brunswick, N.J., loam, 6.6-7.0, 5.1-6.0, 1.1-1.5, to prevent stress.

NJ2 — Adelphia, N.J., loam, 6.1-6.5, 2.1-3.0, 1.1-1.5, to prevent stress.

NJ3 — Martinsville, Md., silt loam and silt, 6.6-7.0, 3.1-4.0, 1.1-1.5, to prevent stress.

OR7 — Hubbard, Ore. (30-40% shade), silt loam and silt, 5.6-6.0, 4.1-5.0, 2.1-2.5, to prevent dormancy.

OR9 — Halsey and Hubbard, Ore., data combined, N/A.

Southern equation differs from course to course

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posed to — when the Bermuda grass comes back,” said Steve Tubbs, vice president of Turf Merchants in Tangent, Ore.

• Some supers overseed to keep their courses green, some because of heavy traffic, some to maintain high green speed.

• Some overseed just greens and tees, some just fairways and some wall-to-wall.

• Perennial ryegrass is the backbone of the cool-season overseeding business. But poa trivialis (rough bluegrass, basically a weed) is the new blue-chip kid on the block, and a number of superintendents are mixing it with bentgrass to overseed Bermuda.

Superintendents avoid overseeding if they can, mainly because of the cost and labor, and the hassle of dealing with two transitions — that from Bermuda to the “overseed” and the return back to Bermuda.

“We’re further south,” said Hiers, who does not overseed at his private country club. “It’s warmer. We don’t have shade problems. We don’t have traffic problems. And we’re willing to bear with the inconvenience of maybe 10 or 12 off-color days a year versus the inconvenience of preparing for overseeding, maintaining it and then going out of transition.”

Some have no choice. Their courses get continuing heavy traffic or have a lot of shade. If they didn’t overseed they would be without grass in some areas in January, February and March.

“We conduct a PGA Tour event [The Players Championship, March 24-27], so we overseed to provide the best quality playing conditions we can during a dormant Bermudagrass season,” said Fred Klauk Jr. at TPC-Sawgrass in Jacksonville, Fla. Klauk explained most courses in the area overseed greens, tees and fairways “because of the climate and resort clientele we have here. They want to come to a green golf course.”

“Many overseed to provide color. We do it to provide a total

Poa triv or rye?

Continued from page 16

Naming perennial rye as primarily the grass of choice, Jacklin Seed Co. Research Director Dr. Doug Brede said a few years ago someone got the idea to hybridize annual rye with perennial rye to capitalize on the easy spring transition offered by the annual rye.

“These so-called intermediate ryegrasses have been poorly accepted by golf courses, because their cost was similar to perennial ryegrass and their performance was similar to annual,” he said.

Brede said weather is ideal for overseeding in the autumn when night temperatures start regularly dropping to 55 to 65 degrees Fahrenheit. Soil temperature at a four-inch depth should be between 72 and 78 degrees, he said.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

ryegrass playing surface,” said the superintendent at a well-heeled Georgia course.

“Southern California is so varied, it’s a whole new ball game 40 miles away,” said superintendent Ray Davies of Virginia Country Club in Long Beach, Calif. “Public and resort courses looking for winter play absolutely have to overseed. They’re going for color.

“It’s a mixed bag in Los Angeles. All courses overseed in Palm Springs. San Diego is very heavy into overseeding as well.”

“There are so many variables,”

said Hiers. “In some cases it’s 50-50. You’re doggoned if you do and doggoned if you don’t. And every year is different. You might have a hot winter or a cold winter, hot early and cold later, or cold early and hot later.

“If you put your seed down and it stays hot, you’re hurting. Or if you put your seed down and get four inches of rain the next day, you’re hurting.”

Success or failure depends largely on the weather. “Obviously, if you’ve got a strong overseeded stand on a small green that’s heavily shaded, that’s going to be the place where you have a transition prob-

lem,” Hiers said. “Typically, the overseeding will hang on longer there, which makes it even worse on the Bermuda. And finally, when the overseeded area checks out, there’s often not much Bermuda left.”

On the California coast, Davies has observed what he calls “the seven-year cycle.”

“Guys will overseed for a few years, then have problems and back off, and a few years later they try it again,” he said.

The problems regard the transition periods from Bermudagrass to ryegrass, then back to Bermuda.

“The first three years or so, the

transition back to Bermuda isn’t bad,” Davies said. “But then it begins getting sparse and you end up with mediocre spring and early-summer fairways. If we overseed our Bermuda on the coast with ryegrass, it’s my feeling that after five years all you’ve got left is ryegrass.”

“In Palm Springs they close the golf courses for four weeks. We can’t do that, and we don’t have the warm weather that burns off the ryegrass and grows in the Bermuda. We can have a hot spell where the ryegrass goes out, then get cold and the Bermuda doesn’t come in. So you end up with really weak fairways in the spring,” he added.

YEARS OF UNIVERSITY TESTS SHOW CYPRESS POA TRIVIALIS AS THE SUPERIOR CHOICE FOR OVERSEEDING!

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Cypress’ prostrate growth habit is apparent in these P.V.P. trials. One picture is worth 1000 words.

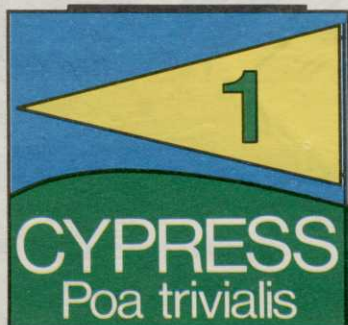
TMI will be happy to send to you copies of the complete trial data for any of the trials we have mentioned below.

University of Florida 1991-92 Overseeding Trials Gainesville, Fla.		
	Mean Quality	
	Scores	Color
Cypress	7.2	7.8
Sabre	7.2	5.4

University of Arizona 1992-93 Overseeding Trials		
	Mean Quality	
	Scores	Color
Cypress	5.4	5.3
Laser	5.0	5.0

USGA Stimpmeter tests at University of Arizona revealed a higher average ball speed of 92 inches for Cypress; better than for Laser.

CERTIFIED



Turfgrass	Monthly and seasonal mean values for turf quality on cool-season grasses overseeded on a ‘Tifdwarf’ bermudagrass putting green from Dec. 1993 to Mar. 1994 at Gainesville, Fl.				
	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Mean
Cypress	6.8	8.2	8.0	6.8	7.25a
Colt	7.1	8.2	7.8	8.5	7.19a
PT-GH-92	6.3	7.8	8.0	7.1	7.19a
LPT-CT (Loft)	6.6	7.8	8.0	6.8	7.16a
PT-GH-89 C11 (Dark Horse)	8.1	7.3	7.8	7.0	6.97a
Danish Common	7.5	8.2	7.5	5.8	6.94a
LPT-HWY (Loft)	6.6	7.7	7.9	8.2	6.88a
Winterplay	6.6	7.5	7.8	6.3	6.88a

Quality mean based on eight visual ratings on a scale of 1-9 where 9 = best

“Although Cypress and Sabre Rough Bluegrass had equal seasonal Turf Quality Ratings of 7.2, the ‘Cypress’ cultivar had better color and less dollarspot disease in May.”
Univ. of Florida Gainesville 1991-1992 overseed Trial.

days:	Establishment rate of Poa trivialis varieties overseeded on dormant bermudagrass in Florida (data from Dr. A.E. Dudeck, Univ. of Florida)		
	7	14	21
—% ground cover—			
1991			
Cypress	2	23	79
Sabre	2	17	70
1992			
Cypress	87	93	86
Laser	36	58	83

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