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- Day 4, stop doing anything.
- Day 5, ditto.
- Day 6, plant a lettuce seed on the green – if that germinates in 2-3 days, you know you're ready to go.

To be honest, in an ideal world we would prefer fumigating with Basamid before enhancing a green's drainage capability via the slit-draining, but then you run the risk of re-contaminating the sterilized soil when you incorporate the drainage materials.

"I don't know that you have to fumigate before drainage necessarily," Anthes says. "I would suggest you don't run your outlets till afterward, or finalize your outlets – put the pipes up and leave them up in the air to reduce the chance of the Basamid traveling further down the tile lines... We did fumigate one green and afterward got a heavy rain. It got into an approach area that we hadn't intended to kill, but it popped back pretty quick."

This stuff dissipates very fast – within 30-60 minutes of activation – but it also travels fast. Obviously, use of this product and procedure requires an intimate knowledge of exactly what sort of drainage/tile network exists under and extending from every green.

Procedures vary from state to state, but in Wisconsin, you have to be a licensed applicator to do anything associated with Basamid. We didn't tarp the greens at Brown County, like you would if you fumigated with methyl bromide, but if we had, everyone who participated in that process would have to be licensed.

Anthes obtained that certification, but not without a small hiccup: He took the test and scored 16 out of 100.

"They said I'd get my score back in a week, but I didn't hear from them. So I called and the guy said there must be something wrong, because you could guess and get higher than 16! Turns out they gave me last year's test but scored it with this year's answers. I retook it and got a 90. You need a 70 to pass."

Anthes explained that one is only required to wear 14 mm gloves when working with Basamid, but he elected to go with the full hazmat suit and respirator – which scared the hell out of a few golfers.

"Yeah, everyone gets a little freaked out when you're in a respirator mask and white suit," he says. "I vividly remember a Tuesday



Top: Installing slit drainage. Middle: The final grade prior to fumigation. Bottom: An example of fumigant damage.

Methyl bromide (MB)

A quick update/reminder on where things stand with regard to use of methyl bromide (MB) on golf courses.

Right now, supers are allowed to tap into existing stockpiles of MB until April 30, 2014. Whatever is purchased by that date can be used until its depletion. The GCSAA is continuing its lobbying effort: In July, MB registrants and GCSAA officially requested that the EPA amend the existing memorandum of understanding to allow golf course use of MB to remain on the label beyond the current deadline.

There's little question that MB is an effective fumigant, ridding soil of any/all traces of lingering grass strains (usually *Poa annua*) in preparation of reseeding or resodding greens. However, the writing's on the wall. What's more, iodomethane, or methal iodone, one MB alternative, is no longer available to golf courses, as last spring the manufacturer removed it from the market.

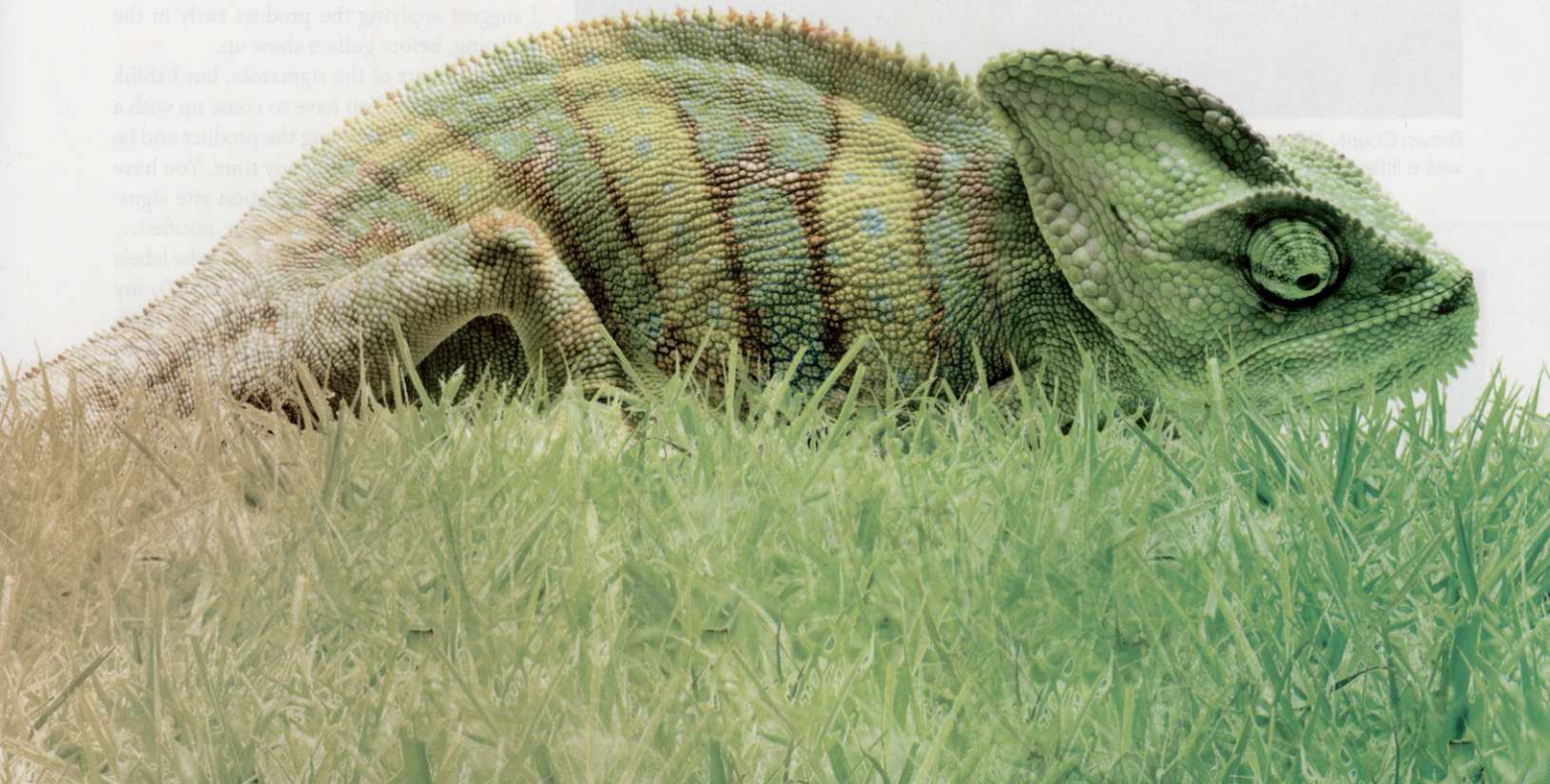


A smooth transition.

Doing correct adjustments and applying the finish grade

on the 14th green, a couple women golfers were talking. "Are we all gonna die? Like I told them, according to the label, you don't need the mask and suit, but I'm overreacting. I didn't want it on my clothes during the day, but their concerns were just another reason I suggest applying the product early in the morning before golfers show up."

part of the transition, but I think you have to come up with a plan for the product and be ready to go at any time. You have to be on top of the signs of a transition. ...



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Brown County GC stayed open with temporary greens throughout the whole process, which was a little nerve-wracking.



Doing contour adjustments and applying the finish grade.

on the 14th green: a couple women golfers were asking, Are we all gonna die? Like I told them, according to the label, you don't need the mask and suit, but I'm overcautious. I didn't want it on my clothes during the day. But their concerns were just another reason I suggest applying the product early in the morning, before golfers show up.

"It's all part of the rigmarole, but I think it was worth it. You have to come up with a master plan for applying the product and be prepared to present it at any time. You have to have buffer signs, application site signs. Some state agencies have to be notified... The labels are a lot more strict than the labels guys are using for methyl bromide. To my knowledge there are no buffer zones with that, for example. After you're done, you have to generate a post-fumigation assessment for the state. You have to keep track of the weather, because if it's too windy and rainy, it's not practical to lay it down.

"We stayed open with temporary greens throughout the whole process, which was a little nerve-wracking. I might shut the course down if we fumigated again, but I'm very happy with how it all turned out. If the project involved doing all the greens at once, early enough in the year to use methyl bromide, and waiting for all of them to grow-in, that's one thing. But I needed to get seed in the ground ASAP, and the Basamid allowed that. I've got great growth on these greens because we didn't have to wait. I feel like we're in great shape headed into the fall and winter, the way the grass has come in."

And the cost? Well, that might be the best part. "I talked to a company about doing this with methyl bromide and they quoted me 50 grand. I put the Basamid on myself and it was \$9,500. Big savings," he says. **GCI**

Bob Lohmann is founder, president, and principal architect of Lohmann Golf Designs and a frequent GCI contributor. Check out his blog at lohmanncompanies.blogspot.com.

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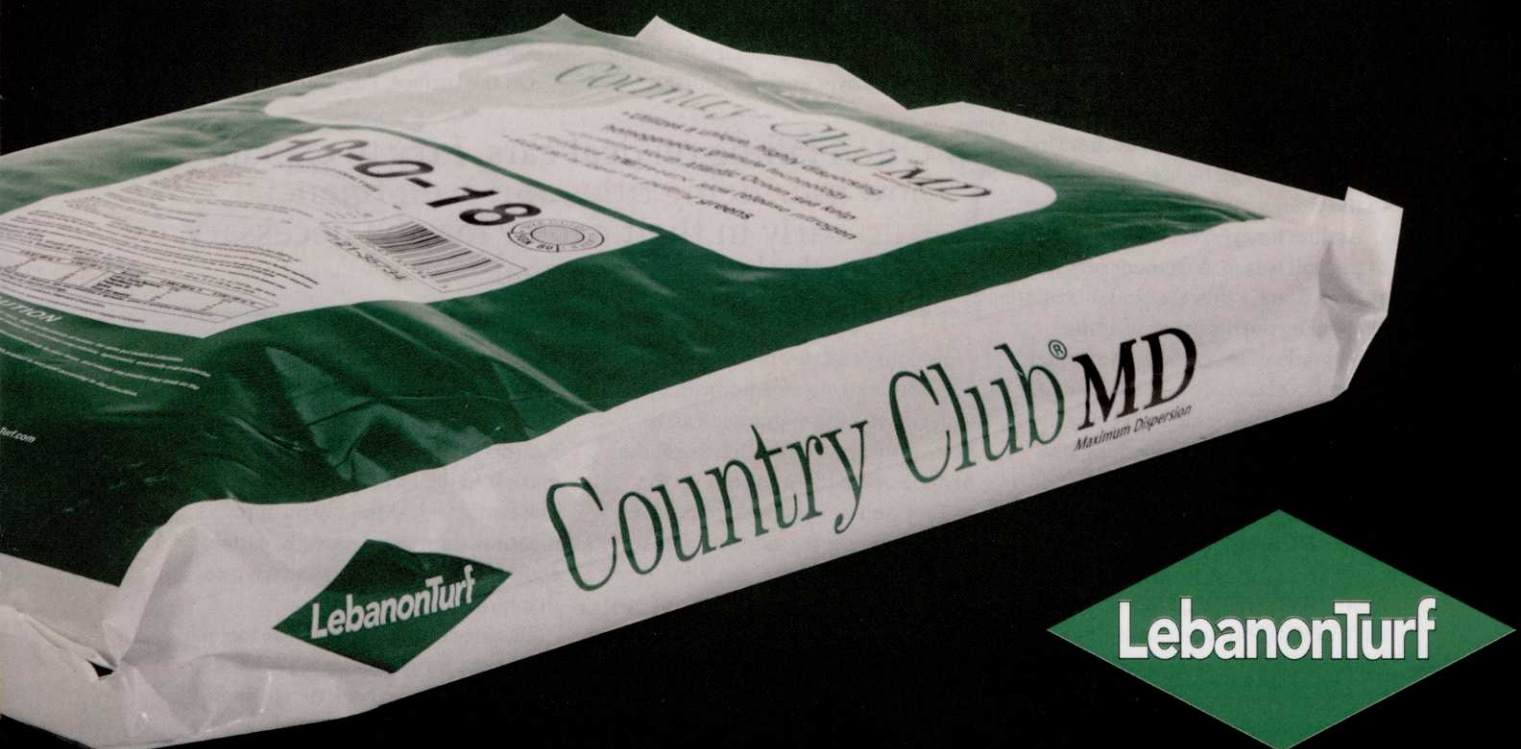
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John E. Kaminski, Ph.D. is an associate professor, Turfgrass Science, and director of the Golf Course Turfgrass Management Program at Penn State University. You can reach him at kaminski@psu.edu.

WHAT'S IN A TITLE?

Dr. John argues that titles should be reserved for positions that deserve titles.

I recently wrote an article in the Green Section about developing an internship at your golf course. In the article, I hinted to the fact that the demand for interns far exceeds the supply of students. This discrepancy in the numbers has given students the upper hand when it comes to the decision-making process. So how do interns and soon-to-be grads ultimately make their decision on which job to take?

THE LURE OF A TITLE. In an effort to attract students and recent graduates to their club, superintendents have creatively developed various titles indicative of the leadership roles so desperately desired. Take a look at the various job boards and you'll find the suitably named assistant superintendent and a slew of secondary titles such as second assistant, assistant in training, graduate assistant and foreman. There are also several other titles for specialized leadership like spray technician, irrigation technician, and turf technician. Many of these names aren't new, but they (for some reason) can be highly attractive to the younger generation.

As director (yes, even I have a title) of the golf turf management program at Penn State, I find the students often clouded by the necessity of a title upon graduation. Perhaps the thought is that if a classmate gets a better title that he or she is going to become more successful. If it's anything like most of the younger generation, perhaps they are thinking that they ALREADY made it.

WHAT'S CAUSING THE SENSE OF

ENTITLEMENT? In what seems to be an increasing trend, many students from what is often thought of as the entitlement generation feel that they DESERVE a title. In some cases,

they actually do while in others they couldn't be farther from reality. In a discussion with friends over a few pints, we used the example of little league sports around the country. One friend pointed out that they don't keep score at their child's sporting match. Another made fun of the fact that although they keep score at their son's game, that "everyone is a winner since they all get trophies at the end of the season."

So although many feel that they deserve a title because of their 2 to 4 years of "hard work" at school and their two summer internships, they soon find out that the hard work is just beginning.

WHY OFFER THE TITLE? When thinking about it from the perspective of the golf course superintendent, I can completely understand why titled positions are created and offered. I would be doing whatever I could to get a competitive advantage in the hiring process over another course.

“Often falling on deaf ears, I try to explain how **sacrificing titles and even financial gain** early in their career may be necessary to reach their career goal.

Building an army of turfgrass graduates with a string of titles from 1st assistant to AITs to graduate assistants would be a logical choice if the finances were there to back up the titles. I would be even more creative and create new positions to woo a potential grad.

I can see the interview process when they look to work at a different course. "I see on your resume that you were traffic coordinator at your last position. What exactly does that entail?" asks the superintendent.

Quick and energetic to respond, the applicant describes how he "was responsible for diverting cart traffic on worn areas throughout the course." In his head, the traffic coordinator is thinking, "Surely my meticulous roping skills make me a perfect fit for the 1st assistant position."

So if I suggest that the students overthink the importance of a titled position, but go on to say that I would create as many titles as possible then what's my point.

A SATURATED MARKET? We in academia often hear about a saturated market and are asked "Why are you continuing to send so many students out in the industry?" I even had a student applying for an internship position receive an email from the superintendent questioning the student's career choice and describing advancement in the industry as "challenging for about two decades with many sacrifices involved along the way."

On the surface, I actually agree

with the superintendent's misguided advice. The road to becoming a superintendent is long and full of sacrifice. For this reason, many graduates never make it to the level of superintendent. The bottleneck at the top means that only those good enough, patient enough and lucky enough make it to that level.

Despite the long road to the top, job placement for graduates is about 100 percent. Referring back to my opening

(KAMINSKI continues on page 56)

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BY ZAC REICHER

Late seeding and winterkill risk

A summary of winterkill information and options for establishing turf now.

We are now out of the preferred seeding period as our temperatures are trending down. Growing degree days (GDD) is a measure of heat units and are often used to predict pest and plant growth. We often use a base of 50F, so the calculation is [(daily high F + daily low F)/2 - 50F].

Figure 1 shows the 25 year average for growing degree day accumulation and is

graphed opposite of traditional, showing expected GDDs remaining this season. As of writing this on Oct. 1, we have less than 35 GDD remaining this year compared to 700 GDD at the beginning of the prime seeding window on Aug 15 and 170 GDD at the end of the window on Sept. 15. Putting GDD in practical terms, turf seeded on Aug 15 could be five times more mature by winter than an identical stand seeded

on Sept. 15 or 20 times more mature than a stand seeded on Oct. 1. This is why we always recommend seeding as early in this Aug. 15 to Sept. 15 window as possible.

Though seeding might still be successfully done yet this fall with significant inputs and precautions, poor establishment or winterkill should practically be expected if seeding is still attempted this fall. Winterkill of all turfgrass plants can

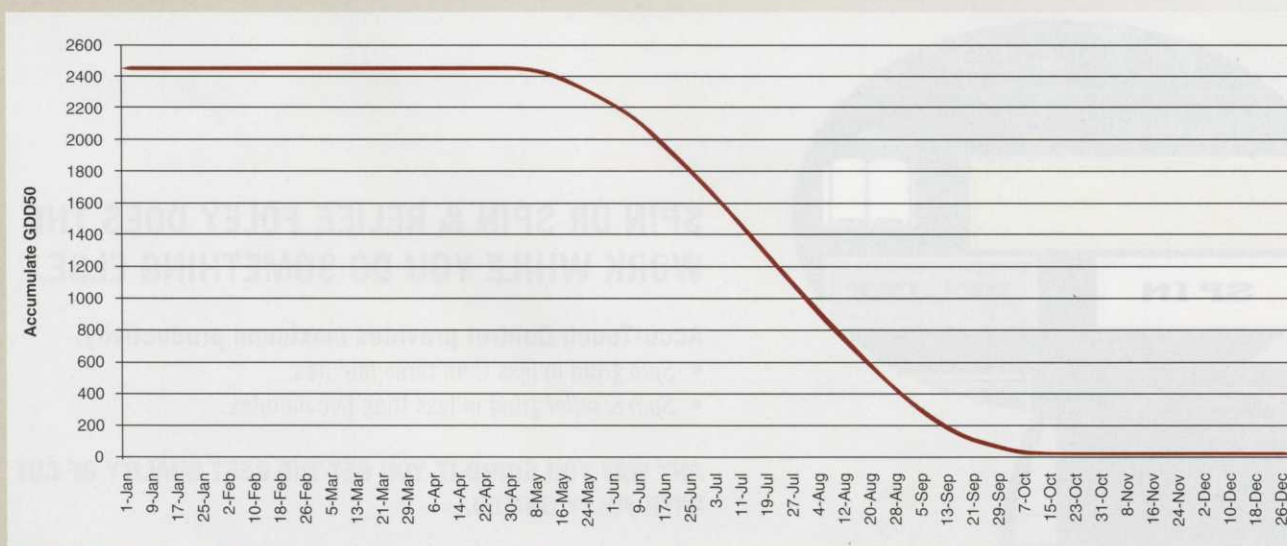
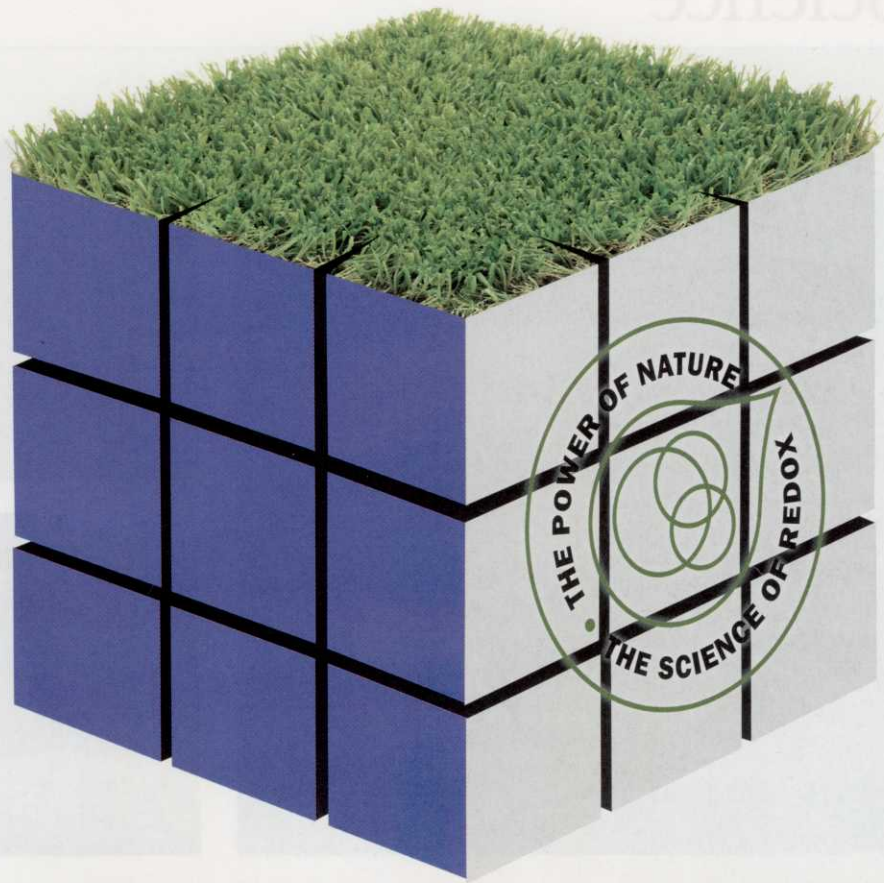


Figure 1. Remaining growing degrees days (GG50) left in the season based on 25-year averages at our turf research station in Mead NE. Less than 35 GDD are expected to accumulate yet this year which is likely not enough for turfgrass establishment.

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Figure 2 (Above): Spring 2013 cover of turf seeded September of 2013 in the foreground compared to turf seeded in August of 2013 in the background. **Figure 3 (Top Right):** May 2013 picture of creeping bentgrass seeded very early spring 2013, covered with a seed cover on the right and uncovered on the left. **Figure 4 (Bottom Right):** Early September 2013 seeding after three weeks of covering with an erosion blanket on the left, uncovered on the right

be through desiccation in dry windy areas, crown hydration in poorly drained areas, or direct low-temperature kill with dramatic temperature drops to extreme cold in the fall or winter (like last year's early October freeze in Figure 2).

More information is at <http://turf.unl.edu/pdf/articles/march%20winterkill.pdf>, but following is a summary of winterkill information and options for establishing turf now.

SPECIES SELECTION. Winterkill risk varies with species, but seedlings are especially susceptible to all forms of winterkill.

- Perennial ryegrass is quick to germinate, but especially prone to winterkill.
- Tall fescue germinates in 10-14 days and can still achieve 80 to 100 percent cover by winter if seeded now and maintained properly, but tall fescue is also particularly prone to winterkill.
- Creeping bentgrass germinates in 7-14 days and could also achieve 80 to 100 percent cover by winter if seeded now and maintained aggressively. However, it is

also markedly prone to winterkill.

- Kentucky bluegrass germinates in 21-28 days and would be lucky to achieve 50 percent cover by winter if seeded now, but has good winterkill tolerance even as a seedling.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS REDUCING WINTERKILL RISK

- Warm and long fall to maximize seedling maturity
- Areas that can be effectively irrigated now and covered with seed covers or erosion blankets to maximize speed of establishment (Figures 3 and 4)
- Areas protected from winter winds out of the north and west
- Areas that can be watered during the winter
 - South-facing slopes that should stay warmer deeper into the fall
 - Areas that can be covered with winter covers, erosion blankets, or snow

OPTIONS

- Seeding now is still an option for the

next 7-10 days on areas where the risk of winterkill can be justified, depending on the species and the previously mentioned environmental factors. Also seeding now on small areas that will take little cost and effort to reseed if winterkill occurs should also be seed as soon as possible.

• Seeding on erodible sites should also be done ASAP to limit soil erosion over the winter, and consider hydromulch or erosion blankets to hold soil. Temporary turf like perennial ryegrass or pasture grasses like oats or winter rye could be seeded at 2-4 lbs seed/1,000 sq ft. The ultimate erosion preventer is sod, which can be laid almost any time of the year as long as it is available.

• If the risk of winterkill to seedlings cannot be justified given the previous discussion, dormant seeding is a great option to be done between November and March.

GCI

Zac Reicher is a professor of turfgrass science in the department of agronomy and horticulture at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.