

Current Research, New Products, and Experimental Chemicals



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In my new position as Turfgrass Research Program Manager for both the Departments of Plant Pathology and Horticulture, I am responsible for all of the turfgrass field research for both departments. This position gives me an opportunity to preview new chemicals and experimental chemicals that are years from the market. This includes both fungicides and herbicides, and this year's testing holds some promising chemicals.

HERBICIDES

Whether it is annual bluegrass in bentgrass, or bentgrass in Kentucky bluegrass that you want to selectively remove, we are looking at several chemicals that are showing promise for either of these applications. This year we are conducting a trial to evaluate the efficacy of several chemicals for just such applications. At the Noer Facility we have a Supina bluegrass plot that has a significant amount of creeping bentgrass infestation. This situation will provide an excellent site for determining herbicide activity on either species. From the data obtained we should be able to extrapolate the degree of activity to other species such as annual bluegrass or rough bluegrass, which we intend to investigate further in the future.

While some of the chemicals in this trial may be familiar, some of the compounds that we will be evaluating are only numbered compounds at this time and may be many years from the market. Other chemicals may be available for use in the near future. One such chemical that could be on your shelf in the near future is Velocity.

If you are not familiar with Velocity, it is a post emergent control for annual bluegrass, which

has shown very good success. Valent (the manufacturer) recently submitted the registration package to EPA and hopes to have it reviewed for registration in the next year. Currently, several states have applied for special use permits, and Dr. Stier is looking into the possibility of a special use permit for turfgrass managers in our state.

Additionally, we are looking at some chemicals that only have selectivity on bentgrass. One such chemical, Balance, is currently labeled in other states as a corn herbicide, but is not labeled in Wisconsin. Balance, which is produced by Bayer, might never receive a turf label but, hopefully some day it will. We have been using it at the Noer Facility since last fall to take bentgrass out of several turfgrass plots, and it has shown to cause no noticeable damage on most cool-season turfs that we have tested it on (Kentucky bluegrass, Texas bluegrass, annual bluegrass, and tall fescue). While you might not want to spray this type of product on your greens, it may come in handy for controlling bentgrass in the surrounds of the green, or the intermediate rough.

This study is in its infancy, and many of the chemicals are currently not labeled for such applications. We hope that knowledge gained will help selective management of such species in the future. Also, our data could help encourage product registration and development.

FUNGICIDES

Over the past year there have been several chemicals that have come to market with similar activity as Chipco Aliette. This year we are evaluating Alude, from Cleary's

Chemical, for Pythium blight control as well as in some of the anthracnose trials that we are conducting at golf courses around the state. This chemical, like Aliette, induces phytoalexins and other plant compounds that will protect plants from disease or other stress put on turf during the summer months.

Additionally from Cleary's is Endorse, which has shown to be very effective against anthracnose. With the reduced control that many superintendents have experienced over the past year, it will be nice to have a new option to manage this difficult disease. Like several chemicals that I have evaluated in the past, this chemistry has been around for a while. I evaluated it in the early 90's for several diseases, and this fungicide has a broad spectrum of activity. Also, it has been evaluated in the past for Typhula blight, and could be a possibility for your winter disease control needs.

Another chemical that will be reviewed again this year is Ranman from ISK Biosciences. You may remember this name as once being associated with Daconil. As I found out last year they are still in the chemical development business. This product was reviewed last year in our Pythium blight control study and it shows some promise for a Pythium fungicide.

Once again this year we are shooting to stay on top of the wave by bringing you evaluations of the latest chemicals and turf management regimes. Don't forget to mark your calendar for August 12th to check out some of the results of these chemicals and other studies being conducted at the O. J. Noer Facility for the Summer Field Day. 🌱