



Kentucky bluegrass used as a low maintenance turf tends to initially grow thick and difficult to play from followed by regression and thinning that leaves voids for weed encroachment.

If left unchecked, broad leaf weeds such as Canadian Thistle, milkweed and legumes like white clover and black medic will quickly invade low mow/maintenance areas and create long term challenges. BMPs to reduce weed invasion are mowing, fertilization and irrigation, especially during establishment.



Sethoxydim and fluazifop are two herbicides designed specifically to remove grassy weed species, such as reed canary grass, from stands of fine fescue low maintenance turf.

prodiamine. Be aware that benefin plus trifluralin can injure fine fescues. Table 1. Differences in applying the two grassy weed herbicides se-

ted down areas will also inhibit new growth from emerging in the spring. If biomass is not removed, the areas will become thin making it a perfect

*Table 1. Differences in applying the two grassy weed herbicides sethoxydim and fluazifop (2).*

<b>Sethoxydim</b>	<b>Fluazifop</b>
Apply to small, actively growing plants.	Apply to small, actively growing plants.
Rapidly degraded by UV light. Apply when cloudy.	Not degraded by sunlight
Apply when temperatures are greater than 70°F.	Apply when temperatures are greater than 70°F.
Reduced soil moisture reduces effectiveness.	Ineffective under drought conditions.
In hard water: add acidifier or water conditioning agent to prevent hard water issues.	Not influenced by hard water.
Need for a crop oil surfactant (consult label).	Non-ionic surfactant needed (consult label).
	When mixed with auxin mimic herbicides; grassy weed control is not obtained.

thoxydim and fluazifop (2).

***Clipping management:***

Although these areas are described as no-mow, they should be mowed once per year in the fall. If the biomass is left on site over the winter, they become matted down by snow resulting in a perfect environment for disease establishment (snow mold). Mat-

environment for broadleaf weed invasion. Mowing should be initiated in the fall (October-November) when the areas are dry. It often works to mow these areas several times starting at a high height (8-10 inches) and lowering the mower deck over several mowings (down to 2-3 inches) resulting in plant tissue being mulched back into the profile. Some cases may allow for one time mowing and blowing the





*Clipping management is critical for a solid stand of low maintenance turf*

clippings off site or collecting the clippings for disposal elsewhere. Be sure you have enough room for clipping disposal. Burning is not recommended for fine fescues as the growing point is often too high (little protection from soil) allowing them to be damaged by the fire. Warm-season grasses are better in a prescribed burning situation because of the crowns being deeper into the soil surface.

***Proper site assessment:***

Not all sites are appropriate for no-mow, low-input areas that will be established with fine fescues. Sites with high soil fertility, high soil moisture

or sites receiving irrigation will result in areas that are too thick, become matted down and provide a great site for grassy weed encroachment. Site selection should not be taken lightly. Areas with poor soil and less water often provide high quality no-mow, low-input areas. Keep in mind that it's not as easy as killing off an area, planting some seed and watching it grow.

If you are looking at converting Kentucky bluegrass rough to no-mow areas be sure to convey the correct information on what to expect. Discuss species selection, weed management, mowing issues, water issues and especially proper site selection. There



are different techniques that need to be implemented in order to keep these areas looking their best. The expectations from stakeholders and golfers are often too high and don't take into account the problems that are most prevalent. Be positive, but convey fact based information. Many people consider no-mow, low-input grasses and they get the idea that these areas are "no maintenance". However, I chose to consider these areas as "different maintenance", but have a place within your turf management area.

1. Dernoden, P.H. 1998. Golf Course Manage.
2. Diesburg, K., N. Christians, R. Moore, B. Branham, T. Danneberger, Z. Reicher, T. Voigt, D. Minner, and R. Newman. 1997. Species for low-input sustainable turf in the US upper Midwest. Agron. J. 89:690-694.
3. Tu, M., C. Hurd, and J. Randall. 2001. Weed Control Methods Handbook. The Nature Conservancy.
4. Voigt, T., and J. Tallarico. 2004. Turf and native grasses for out-of-play areas. Golf Course Manage. 72(3): 109-113.



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# *Fargo/10,000 Duck Outreach Event*

*Thanks Aaron Porter for your hospitality*



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# Within the Leather

by David Kazmierczak, CGCS

**The Masters- is there any better way if you are connected to golf to bring the sport to the forefront**

**and get the collective juices of the golfing world flowing than Augusta National? The answer simply is- no!**

**I just got done watching Bubba Watson climb up the charts of golf's list of immortality with his less than exciting second jacket. I always love watching the Masters, and have since I was a very small child. My family has always been into golf so it was a big deal in my house even though I am a first generation superintendent.**

**I have to confess I have never been to the Masters. I plan to some day; was even flirting with the idea for a short time this year, but it just wasn't going to work out. Even so, I can picture every hole in my mind, recite half the names of the holes and if you took me there blindfolded I swear I could navigate the thing pretty well, as much as I have soaked in from the television through the years. But I love watching any major, because I am a golf rube.**

**I had two interesting conversations with two very different people about the Masters this weekend**

**I thought was interesting. One on Masters Saturday and one today while watching.**

**The conversation on Saturday was with a friend who is not a very avid golfer. In a room of four guys I was the only one who had not been there in person and he said something to the effect that I would be the last guy in the room he figured would not have attended. He then went on to say that the only VCR tape he has left is from the 1986 Masters that still brings tears to his eyes because of the relationship he had with his father and the relationship of Jack Nicklaus and his son who was caddying for him that glorious day when Nicklaus won his sixth.**

**Here is a guy who might pick up a club once or twice a year but is hooked by the game, this tournament, and all that it stands for. He gets it- he understands what golf is about and what joy it can bring. So why doesn't he play more?**

**The second person who I had a conversation with was my lovely bride, Denise. Now my wife has been with me on this superintendent journey for just about as long as she has known me. She understands golf courses. She has been on golf courses, specifically the ones I have worked at, more times than she probably would care to remember. She is not an avid golfer. I believe the**