

Sports Turf Manager

FOR BETTER, SAFER SPORTS TURF. SPRING 2011. VOL. 24. NO. 1.

Is Overseeding With Supina Bluegrass a Viable Option?

Kathleen Dodson, M.Sc., Dr. Eric Lyons, Dr. Katerina Jordan & Dr. Francois Tardif
Department of Plant Agriculture, University of Guelph

Athletic fields are under significant stress during the playing season, which, in southern Ontario and most of Canada for that matter, is from the time the snow melts until it falls again. The predominate amount of play, however, is during the spring and fall months when most turfgrasses are slowly breaking from or entering dormancy. Play

verdict is still out on which species are the best ones to use in southern Ontario as each have pros and cons (Table 1, page 13).

Overseeding Options

Traditionally, Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*, which I will refer to as KBG), with its preferred dark green colour and ability to withstand traffic due to its rhi-

The verdict is still out on which turfgrass species are the best ones to use for overseeding in southern Ontario. Traditionally, Kentucky bluegrass has dominated, but what about supina bluegrass?

on already slowly growing grasses results in increased mortality and the appearance of thin or bare patches. These areas leave openings for opportunistic weeds to encroach on the field. A common practice athletic field managers employ to compete with weed invasion is overseeding desirable species into the turfgrass stand. The

zomatous growth habit, is used on athletic fields. Although KBG should be the predominant species chosen for establishing newly seeded/sodded fields due to its slow germination rate and the inability of seedlings to establish under trafficked conditions, KBG seed is not recommended as the primary species in overseeding mixtures.

OTS HIGHLIGHT

Continued inside on
pages 12-15.

Previous studies have examined the use of perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne* L., subsequently referred to as PR) for overseeding into pre-existing fields. Both Elford et al. (2008) and Rossi (2004) found that frequent overseeding with high rates of perennial ryegrass could result in a more uniform stand with fewer bare ground patches and weeds. However, this practice may lead to decreased winter survival rates of the fields since perennial ryegrass is susceptible to extreme weather conditions. For this reason, there is merit in investigating other turfgrass species that could perform well under trafficked conditions.

Supina bluegrass (*Poa supina*) is native to the European Alps and has been bred...



Inside Features

Corn Gluten Research | 18

A growing number of companies are focused on developing new biological herbicides – and researchers at the Guelph Turfgrass Institute have been busy evaluating some of them. Results are in from 2010 CGM trials.

23 BRANDING YOU! Whether you're job searching or striving to consolidate or expand your present position, personal branding is something you'll want to learn more about.

27 WHAT'S IN A WORD? Join Dr. Bob Sheard in a discussion on 'density' and its implications for sports fields.