

ments in thatch development, incorporation or breakdown of the covered organic material, or root growth.

Annual bluegrass infestation was found to be higher in those treatments with the least site preparation (Table 2). Sodding in midsummer tended to have a higher population of the grass weeds, annual bluegrass and creeping bent grass, than sodding at other times of the year. Although no herbicides were applied in the two years following the laying of the sod, only minor infestation of broadleaf weeds occurred which illustrates a major advantage of sodding - weed control. The advantage appears to be enhanced when sodding occurs at a time when recovery rates are maximized, that is, late fall.

The results of this study point to the

advantage of timing field repair for late October or November when field use has ceased. The indication is that the sod will be well rooted and ready for use as soon as soil conditions are dry enough to permit play the following spring. No irrigation will be required in most seasons as evapotranspiration is minimal at this time of the year.

Conversely, if sodding becomes necessary in midsummer irrigation is essential and must be available for the first 30 days after sodding. It is an advantage to irrigate prior to sodding so that the sod is laid on a wet surface. Sod which is delivered in midsummer will tend to be dry and insufficient water is applied to wet through the sod to a dry soil underneath. Site preparation is also more important in midsummer

to insure close soil-sod contact and prevent drying of the sods, particularly at the edges and corners.

Sodding with minimal site preparation will only be successful where soil conditions such as compaction or low fertility are not a problem. In either case significant soil disruption is necessary to relieve the compaction or to incorporate phosphorus and potassium. Eggens and Carey also suggest minimal site preparation may not be successful where the renovation was made necessary through disease or insect damage. If the root zone is left relatively undisturbed or untreated the insects or disease may still be in place to reinfest the newly laid sod.

Table 2: The influence of sodding date and site preparation on weed infestation two seasons after the date of sodding.

Site Preparation	Annual Bluegrass			Creeping Bentgrass			Broadleaf Weeds		
	DATE OF SODDING								
	May 30	Aug. 11	Oct. 20	May 30	Aug. 11	Oct. 20	May 30	Aug. 11	Oct. 20
	(% weed invasion)								
No preparation	0	17.5	5.5	0.5	3.0	0	1.0	0.5	0.5
Topsoil Added	0	1.5	5.0	0.5	1.5	0	0	0	2.0
Verticutting	0	9.5	3.0	0.5	2.5	0.5	0	2.5	0
Stripping Old Sod	0	5.5	0.5	0.5	3.5	0.5	0.5	2.5	0



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