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Growth Regulators and *Poa annua*

by Thomas L. Watschke

Pennsylvania State University

The use of growth regulators for various aspects of managing turf has increased greatly in the last 10 to 15 years. This increase has occurred as a result of an expanded number of product choices, research into potential uses, and an experience base of successes among practitioners.

Early uses

The earliest uses (1960's) of plant growth regulators on turfgrasses were primarily for growth and seedhead reduction of amenity grasses, mostly along roadsides. Sites that were hazardous to mow, waste areas, and those that only required mowing because of tall seedheads were the principal targets for growth regulator use. Early products, such as maleic hydrazide, provided good growth and seedhead suppression, but often caused reduced root growth and foliar discoloration. These undesirable side effects were often considered acceptable as the turf usually recovered and the lower level of quality could be justified by the savings realized

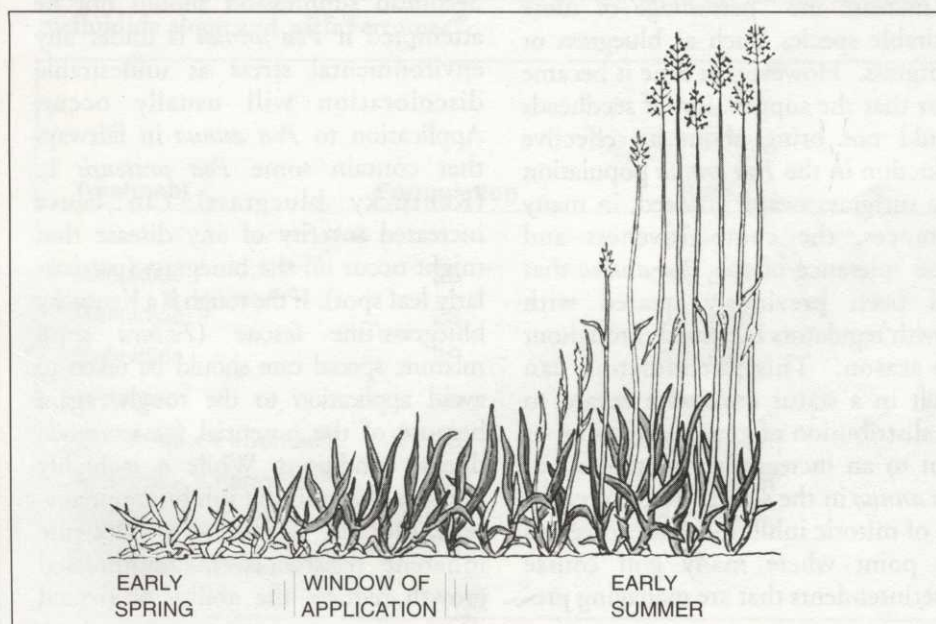


Figure 1. Timing of plant growth regulator applications.

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