



TURFAX™



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TURFAX™ — The International Newsletter about Current Developments in Turfgrass

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The goal of this 6 issue per year newsletter is to provide international turf specialists with a network for current information about turf. It is FAXed to all Institute Affiliates that use the ISTI technical assistance services on an annual basis. FAXing is more costly, but ensures quick delivery to those outside the United States.

For non-affiliates, a TURFAX™ subscription is available by annual payment of U.S. \$60.00. Payment may be made by sending a check to the address below. Foreign orders please send a check or money order on a U.S. bank

Many of you have enquired about obtaining back issues of the Turfax™. We have decided to offer the back issues for the previous two year period (starting January-February, 1993) at the price of U.S. \$5.00 per issue mailed to you. Those wishing to purchase back issues to complete their files should address their enquiries to Harriet Beard.

LOW TEMPERATURE KILL VARIATIONS

Low temperature kill involves the death of any turfgrass that occurs as a result of interior tissue ice formation at temperatures below 0°C (32°F). The last two years have seen extensive kill by this mechanism, first on the closely mowed perennial ryegrasses (*Lolium perenne*) in the intermediate cool-humid region and more recently this past year on bermudagrasses (*Cynodon* spp) in the cooler portion of the warm-humid region. Note that this type of kill should not be confused with chilling injury or low temperature discoloration that occurs at temperatures of 12 to 18°C (54-60°F).

Confusion has arisen in making comparisons among cultivars of warm-season grasses in terms of their hardiness to low temperature kill. The hardiness comparisons normally given relate to low temperature stress that occurs during the winter period and are certainly valid among cultivars such as bermudagrass (*Cynodon* spp) and St. Augustinegrass (*Stenotaphrum secundatum*).

However, the confusion arises when low stress temperatures occur after spring greenup has been initiated. In this case, the cultivars most susceptible to low temperature kill would be those that initiate spring greenup the earliest. The warm-season turfgrass

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