



TURFAX™

of the International Sports Turf Institute, Inc.

The International Newsletter about Current Developments in Turfgrass

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SEEDED BERMUDAGRASS CULTIVAR LOW TEMPERATURE HARDINESS

Dr. Jeff Krans, Turfgrass Researcher at Mississippi State University, established a study encompassing the newer seeded bermudagrass (*Cynodon* spp.) cultivars in a fairway-sport field type assessment. Also included was a reference cultivar, Tifway, which was vegetatively established. He reports that during the winter of 1995-96 all the newer seeded bermudagrass cultivars were seriously damaged by low temperature kill, with the exception of Guymon. In contrast, the vegetatively propagated Tifway was not injured. Evidently a majority of the germplasm sources used in developing turf-type cultivars possessing the ability to produce viable seed in reasonable quantities also are characterized by a lack of low temperature hardiness. This raises a red flag concerning the use of these newer seeded bermudagrass cultivars in areas where low temperature kill occurs.

POA TRIVIALIS - A WEED?

During visits to golf courses and sports fields in Europe, I am frequently asked the following question. How does one get rid of the yellow patches in the perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*) - Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*) fairways and sports fields?

Examination of the yellowish patches reveals the presence of *Poa trivialis* which also is known by the common name rough bluegrass, and as roughstalk bluegrass in the United Kingdom.

Poa trivialis is characterized by a very yellow natural leaf coloration and extensive stoloniferous lateral stems. This results in a distinct, dense, patchy growth in monostands where other grasses tend to be absent. *Poa trivialis* is very prone to heat and drought stresses, but has the weedy ability to recover in persistent, scattered patches.

There is no chemical labeled for the selective removal of *Poa trivialis* from other perennial turfgrass species.

There is the possibility that the source of these *Poa trivialis* patches was present in the seed originally purchased. The patches do develop relatively quickly after planting. Accordingly, it is advisable when purchasing perennial ryegrass and Kentucky bluegrass seed for quality turf areas to include in the specifications a statement that the seed lot or mixture shall be free of *Poa trivialis*.

Note: *Poa trivialis* is used as a desirable turfgrass species for wet, shaded areas in cool climates and for winter overseeding of dormant warm-season turfgrass species.