

Manor 60DF (metsulfuron) is an Option for Removal of Perennial Ryegrass Overseeded into Bermudagrass

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As mentioned in the last issue of TurFax, metsulfuron has returned to the market under a new trade name called Manor[®]. Manor[®] 60DF is sold by the Riverdale Company and will provide turfgrass managers with an option to control several troublesome weed species. One of those species may be perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*) overseeded into bermudagrass (*Cynodon* spp.).

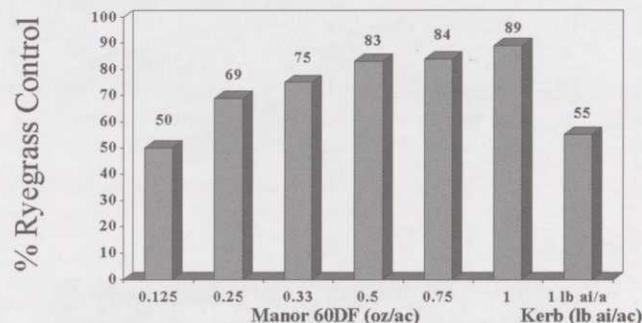
Overseeding warm-season turf species is often controversial. However, there is no doubt that winter color is enhanced by overseeding. Once temperatures start to warm in the spring, the overseeded turf must be removed to allow the underlying warm-season species to grow. This "transition" period is often difficult and can result in an undesirable playing surface. In many climates, the overseeded turf may die out on its own. However, the development of more heat- and disease-tolerant perennial ryegrasses has led to difficulty in obtaining a natural transition. In such cases, the use of a herbicide can accelerate the removal of ryegrass and ensure that this species is completely removed in a timely manner. The trick, of course, is to have the perennial ryegrass die out gradually as the warm-season turf begins to grow. This "smooth transition" will lead to acceptable turf quality during this period of time.

This is where Manor[®] can be of assistance. Previously, many turfgrass managers have relied on pronamide (Kerb[®] 50WP) to assist in transition. Kerb[®] applied at approximately 1 lb ai/ac (1.1 kg ai/ha) usually ensures complete kill of the perennial ryegrass without harm to bermudagrass. In addition, Kerb[®] eliminates the ryegrass very gradually (usually over a 4- to 6-week period) and results in acceptable turf throughout the transition period. Research also has shown Manor[®] 60DF can eliminate perennial ryegrass and provide an acceptable transition.

Figure 1 is from a research trial conducted in the spring of 2000 at the Turfgrass Field Laboratory at North Carolina State University on the removal of perennial ryegrass from overseeded bermudagrass. The applications were made on April 10 and the ratings were taken on May 10. As noted in Figure 1, Manor[®] is gradually providing good control of the perennial ryegrass and turf quality (Figure 2) is acceptable. From this trial, it is questionable whether the lowest rate (0.125 oz/ac or 8.75 g/ha) will provide complete kill of the ryegrass. In fact, the Manor[®] label suggests 0.33 to 0.5 oz/ac (9.4 to 14.2 g/ha) is needed to

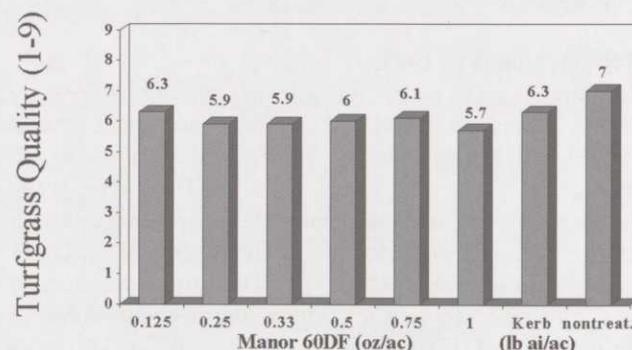
kill perennial ryegrass. The results of this research are in agreement with the label directions. Note that most of the Manor[®] rates are providing a more rapid kill of perennial ryegrass than Kerb[®]. However, also note that turfgrass quality (Figure 2) on a scale of 1 to 9 is not below 5 (the minimum level of acceptable turf quality) with any of the treatments. This indicates a good transition, even though it is slightly faster than Kerb[®].

This, and other research, indicates that Manor[®] can be a useful tool in removing perennial ryegrass from bermudagrass. The kill is slow enough so there is limited browning effect on the turf. The fact that turf quality is acceptable throughout the ryegrass removal process indicates a smooth transition.



Treatments applied April 10; % control ratings taken May 10; research conducted at NCSU Turfgrass Field Lab, Spring 2000

Figure 1. Perennial ryegrass control in overseeded bermudagrass with Manor[®] 60DF and Kerb[®] 50WP.



Treatments applied April 10; turf quality ratings taken May 10; research conducted at the NCSU Turfgrass Field Lab, Spring 2000

Figure 2. Turfgrass quality of perennial ryegrass and bermudagrass with Manor[®] 60DF and Kerb[®] 50WP during transition.