

## Compound controls unwanted tall fescue

A new compound developed through research at Iowa State University selectively controls tall fescue in a number of established grasses.

The compound, chlorsulfuron, is a product of E.I. Du Pont de Nemours marketed by Lesco as Lesco TFC. The dispersible granular herbicide is labeled for established Kentucky bluegrass, fine fescue, bentgrass, bahiagrass and Bermudagrass.

Tests on annual bluegrass tolerance were inconclusive, in one instance showing tolerance, and in another showing damage, according to Nick Christians, Ph.D., Iowa State. The product will kill perennial ryegrass.

The compound was originally tested as a low-use-rate broadleaf weed controller. But it also discolored tall fescue contaminating Kentucky bluegrass plots, leading to tests to control tall fescue by Christians and D.J. Laroque at Iowa State in 1982 and 1983.

Greenhouse trials showed chlorsulfuron's effect on tall fescue was slow, taking four weeks to show signs of damage, eight for complete kill. The compound was also effective in fall



uses even when the tall fescue went into dormancy.

### PRODUCTS

## Carpet produces lightweight sod

Fast Grass, Inc. is trying to take some of the backache out of laying sod.

The Oxnard, Calif., company purchased the rights to manufacture and distribute a jute and hemp carpet in-laid with grass seed at the factory. When rolled out on plastic and watered, the carpet produces a saleable stand of turf in about 45 days. Without dirt.

The carpet, developed and tested successfully in Europe, weighs about 70 pounds in a four- by 100-foot roll. When the turf is grown, the roll is cut into 25-foot sections for easy handling by one person. This is considerably less burdensome than the average roll of conventional sod.

Because of this, the owners of Fast Grass—Doug Cowle and Evan Melby—are hoping to sell the product to sod farmers, landscapers and even homeowners. They see a day when the homeowner can go into the supermarket, buy a 50-square-foot roll and grow it themselves to replace dead spots. The carpet could also have a home on golf courses and in areas requiring erosion control.

The two men estimate the cost of the carpet will be about the same as dirt-grown sod, but that the carpet can lead to savings in labor and water costs. Large harvesting equipment won't be needed, and less water is

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used since the plastic underlay keeps more moisture in the root area.

In addition to the four-foot-wide roll, the carpet also comes in 12-foot-wide rolls. Possible spinoffs for the carpet include flower and vegetable seed worked into the fabric.



**Fast Grass on its plastic liner after 22 days exhibits a good stand of turf.**

## GOLF

### Do the little things really matter?

Do the little things really matter?

Dan Hein, a regional director for American Golf Corp. in the Long Beach, Calif., area, asked this question at the GCSAA conference earlier this year. Yes, he answered. "These items are easily accomplished within your current budget."

So what can be done? To start with, economize, Hein stresses.

- Eliminate or reduce time-consuming tasks such as trimming grass around trees and spray heads. He suggests chemical control to kill or regulate the plants' growth.

- To reduce wear areas, try to keep carts off fairways and on roughs or cart paths away from greens.

- Leveling irrigation heads, Hein says, will also speed up mowing.

- A fertigation system is a way to eliminate manual applications of fertilizer.

- Use water sensors to streamline use of irrigation water, using only when necessary. Preventive maintenance on equipment will also save money, he says. A thorough wash and post-operative maintenance should be standard.

- Properly training operators and then organizing the maintenance area also help.

And then, "put the money saved back into the course," Hein says. American golf goes by the concept of clean and green, Hein notes. "Use cleansers and paint to keep the course looking good."

Keeping ballwashers rust-free, painted and with a fresh towel is one

way, he believes. Also, little things like clean walkways with plant borders, 150-yard markers and even contouring roughs improve appearance, "little extras to bring back the golfers."

## CHEMICALS

### PBI/Gordon recalls Teremec fungicide

PBI/Gordon is recalling all stocks of the fungicide Teremec SP (chloroneb) following receipt of a recall notice from the manufacturer/formulator.

The company's press release said, "In view of the recent phytotoxicity problem which has developed with some of the chloroneb fungicide that was formulated by Drexel, we recommend that you advise all your customers and (end users) to not use or sell this product until the full scope of this situation can be determined. We will keep you advised."

PBI/Gordon is making arrangements with distributors for returns of all Teremec SP, broken or unbroken, for credit.

Courses affected by contamination range from Atlanta, Ga. up the Atlantic seaboard into southern New York and as far west as Denver.

At press time, PBI/Gordon was investigating the situation and planned to release a statement in late August.

## ACADEMIA

### Hort departments starting to recruit

The Department of Horticulture at Virginia Polytechnic Institute recently began a recruiting program to draw prospective students into its horticulture program.

The program is spearheaded by department head and professor Thomas A. Fretz and professor Paul Smeal.

The two are appealing to current horticulturists who know people with an interest in plants, horticulture and/or botanical science. Names of prospective students will be sent to Smeal at VPI so that the department can follow up by sending information regarding the program and the school.

This information includes a brochure produced by the department which gives information about the university, brief explanations of horticulture and career opportunities in horticulture.

*Continued on page 26*

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