

LM REPORTS

PGRs offer a variety of options

■ Turfgrass plant growth regulators are becoming more popular everywhere in the green industry, in just about every variety of settings.

Not too many years ago, early generations of PGRs were only used on low-maintenance turf, like roadsides. In the past decade, however, new products have been targeted at medium- and even high-maintenance turf like home lawns and golf courses.

All growth regulators are designed to grow turf that is shorter and denser—turf that looks better, requires less mowing, and results in fewer clippings. Some of the newer products even improve the color of the leaves, since the same amount of chlorophyll is available to what is actually less leaf area.

Most PGRs require multiple applications over the course of a growing season, but you should be careful not to exceed the label limit for accumulative product use in one season.

If you are planning to try a PGR for the first time, make sure to follow label directions carefully, because different rates result in different results that, in some cases, can include phytotoxicity and yellowing of plant leaves.

For more information on the products listed to the right, circle the following Reader Inquiry Numbers on LM's Reader Service Card:

Limit (The Andersons) . . . #311

Cutless (Lesco) #312

Slo-Gro (Uniroyal) #313

Embark (PBI-Gordon) . . . #314

TGR (Scott's) #315

Primo (Ciba T&O) #316

SIX COMMON PLANT GROWTH REGULATORS

COMMON NAME	amidochlor	flurprimidol	maleic hydrazide
TRADE NAME	Limit	Cutless	Slo-Gro
TYPE	I	II	I
MFG./DIST.	The Andersons	Lesco	Uniroyal
¹GRASSES CONTROLLED	FF, KB, RY, TF	AB, BM, BN, KB, RY	AB, BH, BM, FF, KB, RY, TF
TOXICITY¹	3,100 mg/kg	709 mg/kg	6,950 mg/kg
PRIMARY USES	turf growth reduction, medium maintenance areas	poa suppression, turf growth reduction, perennial grass conversion	temporary growth reduction of grasses, trees and shrubs
LENGTH OF CONTROL	up to 6 weeks	2-4 weeks	n/a
COMMON NAME	mefluidide	paclobutrazol	trinexapac
TRADE NAME	Embark	TGR	Primo
TYPE	I	II	II
MFG./DIST.	PBI-Gordon	Scott's	Ciba T&O
¹GRASSES CONTROLLED	AB, BM, CN, FF, KB, RY, TF, ST	BN, BM, KB, RY, ST, ZY	BH, ZY, CT, ST, BM, TF, KB, AR, RY, BN, AB
TOXICITY²	25 mg/kg	5,346 mg/kg	4,460 mg/kg
PRIMARY USES	poa suppression, growth reduction of turf, shrub and groundcovers	on fertilizer carrier for poa control, grass growth regulation	turf growth reduction, seed-head suppression, golf overseeding
LENGTH OF CONTROL	up to 8 weeks	up to 8 weeks	4-8 weeks

¹TYPES OF GRASSES: AB=annual bluegrass; BH=bahiagrass; BM=bermudagrass; BN=bentgrass; CT=centipedegrass; FF=fine fescue; KB=Kentucky bluegrass; RY=ryegrass; TF=tall fescue; ST=St. Augustinegrass; ZY=zoysiagrass

²TOXICITY: LD₅₀, rat, oral

Sources: North Carolina Turfgrass Council newsletter, fall, 1992 (Dr. Joe DiPaola); product labels; Farm Chemicals Handbook '94