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Echoing the belief that timing is vital in the control of *Poa annua*, Dr. Ray Dickens related that he overseeded half a test plot three weeks prior to the normal overseeding date. The other half was overseeded three weeks later than usual. "The early overseeding area was essentially clean of *Poa annua*; the late overseeding area had a pretty severe bluegrass infestation. With peren-

nial ryegrasses and better herbicides, we've been moving overseeding a little bit earlier. The results have shown 85-95 percent control of annual bluegrass just from a good, aggressive stand-off of ryegrasses," he added.

Dickens further commented that early overseeding got stiff competition from Bermuda grass. The stands on the early overseeding test plot

were thin for quite a while; the later plot was overseeded after the Bermuda had finished its competition, resulting in heavy stands. Agreeing with Ward, Dickens also called for more knowledge of *Poa annua* activity in the South. He added: "We still don't know exactly when it germinates or what causes it to germinate. Something like bensulide either controls dormant seeds, or *Poa annua* germinates earlier than we believed. I think the latter is probably true."

Discussing the future of *Poa annua* control, Dr. Ward commented, "We need to find a more effective and simpler way of providing control prior to overseeding. And, obviously, the fewer seeds we have come through on *Poa annua*, the less the problem. "We should eventually be able to get to where we won't have a *Poa annua* control on the green, if we can prevent seedhead formation. And this is another area we need to research," Ward added.

Looking at other methods of possible annual bluegrass control, Howard Kaerwer of Northrup King Co. noted that, based on his observations, early aerification usually results in less germination of *Poa annua* than does aerification later in the fall. "If you get your green cleaned up the year before, you won't see much *Poa annua* the following year."

"Despite the fact that there are *Poa annua* seeds on the ground," Kaerwer added, "there is something that happens during this hot period that keeps them from germinating. "I think that there are many mechanical or management things that can be done to control *Poa annua*. If we knew more about it, much of the control could be handled by mechanical or management means rather than by going the chemical route."

Moving on to the subject of variety selection, Dr. Ray Dickens commented that healthy greens result more from overseeding management practices than from seed varieties. He continued that variety differences could be rated in terms of "color, dark and light. But when you plant two greens, two fairways apart, most people don't know that you've got two varieties on them," Dickens said. "We've got so many to choose from that the competition is going to result in a pricing sort of situation," he con-

Continues on page 44

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cluded.

Dr. Jeff Krans discussed the role of perennial ryegrasses in the overseeding process. He said, "Perennial ryegrass normally, in the majority of overseeding mixtures, handles the base grass and within this we add other, cool season grasses.

Krans agreed with Dickens that management, more than variety, determines whether a green will be good or poor. "The management, or how you establish the grass, far outweighs your variety selection. The addition of other grasses to perennial ryegrass is something that has real potential, as far as putting in a fine leaf fescue or a *Poa trivialis*, a bent grass or a Kentucky bluegrass," Krans said.

Opening up a discussion of methods and rates of overseeding, Kaerwer commented: "This whole business is an art based on science, but it still has a tremendous amount of art. Each golf course is different, as is each weather condition. These all have influences. In short, to overseed properly, you need to start preparing for it a year before.

"Basically you want good, healthy Bermuda grass. You don't want thatch. The equipment and technology available today to keep thatch out are excellent. However, one of the bigger problems we face is the control of Bermuda grass, because it tends to push the ryegrass out during that establishment period.

"Healthy Bermuda grass with no thatch means starting in the spring. You need to have your soil and your green as open to aerification and moisture drainage as possible, plus you need air drainage. You want to be able to keep your grass in a condition that will allow it to be as dry above the ground as possible with moisture to the root system. Your fertility program comes in here. When overseeding, you don't want Bermuda grass growing rapidly. You want to slow it down and this means reducing predator overseeding. To do this, you can cut down your fertility. Then the best procedure could be to scalp down somewhat, or mow it, to open up pathways to get the seed down as close to the ground as possible," Kaerwer added.

Dr. Coleman Ward termed "ineffective" the practice of initially putting down half the intended amount of seed, and overseeding with the remaining amount a few months later. "Let's say that half the seed is put out around October 1, and the other half later on January 1. The percentage of seed that survived from the January 1 overseeding wouldn't exceed 5 percent. This is just an observation I've made but I think that it's a problem we need some hard answers on because a lot of superintendents are doing this," Ward commented.


Ward advised against aerification of a *Poa annua* infested green. "When you put down a preemergent herbicide to control *Poa annua*, you should never aerify subsequent to overseeding. You're going to bring up *Poa annua* seed with that aerification. If you feel your greens absolutely need help, I'd recommend slicing them. In fact, if I had greens where *Poa annua* was a serious problem, I wouldn't put an aerifier on that green," Ward said.

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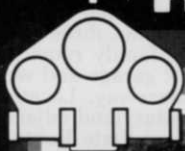
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EVENTS

Texas Turfgrass Conference, Texas A&M Conference Center, College Station, TX, **Dec. 3-5**. Contact Dr. Richard Duble, Department of Soil and Crop Science, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843, 713-845-1551.

Delaware Turfgrass Association Annual Meeting, Hercules Country Club, **Dec. 4**. Contact: Dr. William Mitchell, Agriculture Hall, University of Delaware, Newark, DE 19711.

Ohio Turfgrass Conference, Cincinnati Exposition Center, **Dec. 4-6**. Contact: Dr. David Martin, 1827 Neil Ave., Columbus, OH 43210, 614-422-2592.

Symposium on Surface Mining Hydrology, Sedimentology, and Reclamation, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, **Dec. 4-7**. Contact: Mrs. Sue Hill, Continuing Education — Engineering, 779 Anderson Hall, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40506, 606-257-3971.

Oklahoma Turfgrass Research Foundation Annual Meeting, Lincoln Plaza, Oklahoma City, OK, **Dec. 6-8**. Contact: R.V. Sturgeon, 115 Life Science East, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK 74074.

National Agricultural Aviation Association Convention & Exposition, Las Vegas, NV, **Dec. 10-13**. Contact Sue Shaffer, registration chairman, Suite 459-National Press Building, Washington, D.C. 20045.

20th Illinois Turfgrass Conference and Regional Show, Ramada Inn, Champaign, IL, **Dec. 18-20**. Contact: John R. Street, 106D Horticulture Field Lab, University of Illinois, Urbana, IL 61801, 217-333-7847.

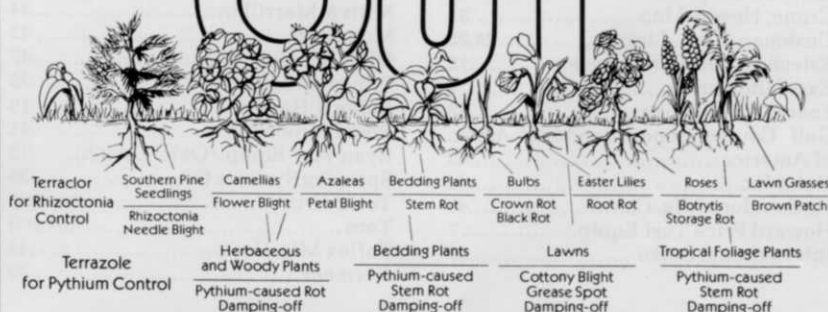
Maryland Turfgrass '80, Baltimore Convention Center, **Jan. 6-9**. Contact: Dr. David Wehner, Dept. of Agronomy, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742, 301-454-3715.

Northeastern Weed Science Society Annual Meeting, Grossinger Hotel and Country Club, Grossinger, NY, **Jan. 8-10**. Contact: J.V. Parochetti, USDA SEA-Extension, Room 5535 South Bldg., Washington, DC 20250.

New Hampshire Turf Conference, Sheraton-Wayfarer Motor Inn, Bedford, NH, **Jan. 10-11**. Contact: John Roberts, Plant Science, Nesmith Hall, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH 03824.

Continues on page 48

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Events from page 47

50th Annual Michigan Turfgrass Conference, Michigan State University, E. Lansing, MI, **Jan. 15-16**. Contact: Thomas Smith, 323 Agriculture Hall, Michigan State University, E. Lansing, MI 48824.

Southern Weed Science Society Annual Meeting, Arlington Hotel, Hot Springs, AR, **Jan. 15-17**. Contact:

Jerry Weber, North Carolina State University, Weed Science Center, 3123 Ligon St., Raleigh, NC 27607.

Mid-Am Trade Show, Rosemont, IL, **Jan. 20-23**. Contact: Mid-Am Trade Show, 4300-L Lincoln Ave., Rolling Meadows, IL 60008, 312-359-8160.

Landscape Ontario Annual Congress, Sheraton Centre Hotel,

Toronto, Ontario, Canada, **Jan. 22-24**. Contact: Robert Cheesman, Landscape Ontario, 103-3034 Palstan Rd., Mississauga, Ontario, Canada, L4Y 2Z6, 416-276-6177.

Virginia Turfgrass Conference, Fort Magruder Inn, Williamsburg, VA, **Jan. 30-31**. Contact: J.F. Shoulders, Ext. Specialist-Turf, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Virginia Polytechnic and State University, Blacksburg, VA 24061.

Annual Turf & Landscape Conference, Tappan Zee Inn, Mountain View Ave., Nyack, NY, **Jan. 30**. Contact: Frank Claps, 136 Laurel Ave., Larchmont, NY 10538, 914-834-6846.

ALCA Annual Meeting and Trade Exhibit, Town and Country Hotel, San Diego, CA, **Feb. 3-8**. Contact: Associated Landscape Contractors of America, 1750 Old Meadow Rd., McLean, VA 22102, 703-821-8611.

Wastewater Irrigation Course, Denver, CO, **Feb. 5-7**. Contact: The Irrigation Association, 13975 Connecticut Ave., Silver Spring, MD, 20906, 301-871-8188.

National Arborist Association Winter Meeting, Orlando Hyatt House, Orlando, FL, **Feb. 17-21**. Contact: Bob Felix, 3537 Stratford Rd., Wadsworth, NY 11793, 516-221-3082.

Northwest Pest Control Conference on Integrated Pest Management, Spokane Sheraton Hotel, Spokane, WA, **Feb. 22-25**. Contact: Chris Senske, P.O. Box 6258, Kennewick, WA 99336, 509-783-5461.

American Sod Producers Association Winter Meeting, Disney World, Orlando, FL, **Feb. 24-28**. Contact: ASPA, 9th and Minnesota, Hastings, NE, 68901, 402-463-5691.

Pennsylvania Turfgrass Conference, Hershey Motor Lodge and Convention Center, Hershey, PA, **Feb. 26-29**. Contact: Arthur Wick, P.O. Box 362, Sewickley, PA, 15143 or Christine King, Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council, 412 Blanchard St., Bellefonte, PA 16823.

Connecticut Groundskeepers Association, Conference, Hartford Civic Center, Hartford, CT, **Feb. 27**. Contact: Glenn Moore, 141 Hemlock Hill Rd, New Canaan, CT, 06840.

First Agri-Turf Irrigation Exposition and Technical Conference, Houston, TX, **Feb. 24-27**. Contact: The Irrigation Association, 13975 Connecticut Ave., Silver Spring, MD, 20906, 301-871-8188.

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