

#### Acclaim®: more than just a crabgrass rescue.

As the first truly effective postemergence herbicide for control of crabgrass in turf, Acclaim® 1 EC Herbicide has become known as an excellent rescue treatment. But Acclaim is just as effective when used in spring (after the time lilacs bloom) and early summer. Acclaim works to kill crabgrass before it is visible above the grass canopy. And Acclaim leaves no residue to mar the beauty of your turf.

#### Acclaim plus a pre for peak performance-and profit.

Acclaim is very effective when tank-mixed with your preemergence herbicide. In this way, you can eliminate early treatments and improve your cash flow. Acclaim with a pre enables you to closely target a single treatment to the crabgrass germination period-when control is most effective. Acclaim used in this way controls crabgrass before it is recognized as a problem, helping to minimize lost business or costly callbacks. This is vital when you consider that last year, callback rates were 25% to 50%. and each callback cost an estimated \$40 to \$70.

#### Enjoy new flexibility.

The best thing about Acclaim is that you can use it anytime you have a problem with emerged crabgrass. Acclaim is effective as a rescue or as part of your early crabgrass control program. Either way, Acclaim gives you more confidence in controlling crabgrass than you've ever had before. Read and follow label directions.

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ACCLAIM<sup>®</sup>.

Because your turf is always on display.

emergence herbicides include early weed control and control of certain weed species not susceptible to postemergence herbicides.

Pre-emergence turfgrass herbicides have limitations: they usually have little or no post-emergence activity; they do not control established perennial weed species; their residues from applications to control winter annual grass weeds in dormant Bermudagrass turf may be phytotoxic to overseeded cool-season turfgrass species: they must be leached downward in the soil to the weed seed germination zone, usually within the upper one-half inch soil layer. Sometimes, pre-emergence herbicides are lost in the turf thatch and unavailable for weed control.

Examples of pre-emergence herbicides include benefin, bensulide, DCPA, ethofumesate, napropamide, oxadiazon, oryzalin, pendimethalin, prodiamine, siduron and trifluralin.

Post-emergence herbicides are applied directly to the aboveground shoot of actively growing weeds, with the leaves the primary target. During application, post-emergence herbicides are also, unavoidably, applied to the turfgrass foliage, except when applied over dormant warm-season species such as Bermudagrass. Thus to avoid turfgrass injury, the turfgrass itself must be tolerant to the applied herbicide.

Examples of post-emergence herbicides include bentazon, bromoxynil, dicamba, DSMA, fenoxapropethyl, MSMA, paraquat and the phenoxy herbicides 2,4-D, dichlorprop, MCPA and mecoprop.

#### Contact or systemic?

Post-emergence herbicides are either contact or systemic. Contact herbicides are those that undergo little or no translocation in plants. They are most effective in the control of seedling weeds (broadleaf and/or grass) less than two inches tall.

Advantages of contact herbicides are their relatively quick kill (within hours to a few days), less damage to desired plants in the event of slight spray drift onto these plants during application and no persistent herbicid soil residues. Characteristics that may be considered disadvantageous are the lack of soil persistence (thus, failure to control later emerging weeds) and, since they do not translocate in plants, poor control of established perennial weeds and large established annuals.

Examples of contact turfgrass herbicides are bentazon, bromoxynil and paraquat (for dormant Bermudagrass).

Systemic herbicides translocate (move) within plants from their sites of absorption to their sites of phytotoxicity. Foliar-applied systemic herbicides are transported from the leaves, along with the sugars manufactured during photosynthesis, to other parts of the shoot and to underground plant parts.

The principal advantage of systemic herbicides is that they will move within plants to their sites of phytotoxicity. Thus, complete coverage of the targeted weeds is not as important with systemic herbicides as it is with contact herbicides. Systemic herbicides are used to control seedling and established annual and perennial weeds.

A disadvantage of systemic herbicides is that care must be taken during application to avoid contact of the herbicides with susceptible desired plants, as they will also translocate within these plants from sites of contact and absorption to sites of phytotoxicity. A soil-applied systemic herbicide may be root absorbed and transported upward into the shoot. This can pose a problem when a selective post-emergence systemic herbicide is leached into the soil and subsequently root absorbed and transported to sites of phytotoxicity in aboveground parts of susceptible desired plants. Problems have arisen in this manner following applications of 2,4-D and dicamba.

Examples of systemic turfgrass herbicides are dicamba, DSMA, glyphosate, MSMA and the phenoxy herbicides 2,4-D, dichlorporp, MCPA and mecoprop.

#### Volatility

From a practical viewpoint, turfgrass herbicides are non-volatile, with a few exceptions.

Ester forms of 2,4-D are volatile, and their vapors pose a potential hazard to nearby susceptible ornamentals. The high volatile esters (methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl and butyl) of 2,4-D volatilize at temperatures above 65° F. and, to avoid injury to desired plants via vapor drift, they should not be used in turfgrass.

The low volatile esters (butoxyethyl, isooctyl and others) of 2,4-D volatilize at temperatures above 95° F.. Their vapors pose a hazard to susceptible ornamentals and this hazard should be considered prior to their use in turf areas.

A few pre-emergence herbicides volatilize, but their vapors rarely have post-emergence activity, and they pose little or no threat to established ornamentals. However, unless leached into the soil soon after application by rainfall or irrigation, such herbicides may be lost from soil and turf surfaces, with a corresponding loss in weed control.

#### **Formulations**

Herbicides are sold to the consumer as formulated products. Thus, the product in the paper, plastic or glass container is a formulation, with the herbicide as its active ingredient.

Turfgrass herbicide formulations are of two basic types: (1) granules or pellets that are applied directly (not mixed with water) to the turf, and (2) those designed to be pre-mixed (diluted) with water and applied in aqueous sprays.

Granular or pelleted formulations contain pre-emergence herbicides; they are not intended for foliar absorption. Pre-emergence herbicides are also formulated to be applied in aqueous sprays. All post-emergence turfgrass herbicides are formulated to be pre-mixed with water and applied in aqueous sprays.

Water-diluted formulations include emulsifiable concentrates, wettable powders, liquid and dry flowables, and those that contain watersoluble herbicides, such as DSMA, MSMA, glyphosate and salt forms of the phenoxy herbicides.

#### Water

Rainfall and irrigation can influence the effectiveness of turfgrass herbicides. Water encourages weed seed germination and seedling emergence. Water enhances the activity of pre-emergence herbicides, moving the herbicides into the zone of weed seed germination and seedling emergence.

In general, weed control is enhanced by one-half inch of rainfall or irrigation following soon after application of pre-emergence herbicides. Too much water may leach the herbicides too deeply in the soil, resulting in poor weed control.

Foliar-applied herbicides are often so quickly absorbed that they are not adversely affected by rainfall occurring 30 minutes or so after application. A few foliar-applied herbicides, especially water-soluble ones, may be partially washed from foliage by rainfall occurring soon after application, resulting in reduced phytotoxicity.

W. Powell Anderson has been a faculty member in the Department of Agronomy at New Mexico State University for 25 years. He is now retired, but still teaches two weed science courses with the academic title of Associate Professor Emeritus. Anderson is author of the textbook "Weed Science: Principles."

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## MANAGEMENT CALENDAR: COOL-SEASON ATHLETIC FIELDS

Quality turf can make athletic fields safer for young athletes. Field managers should follow this general guide for safer turf.

by J. R. Hall III, Ph.D., Virginia Tech

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requent evaluation of current athletic field management programs is important. Setting up annual management calendars helps increase administrative decision-making and personnel management decision-making efficiency.

Calendars let the professional plan ahead for equipment and material purchasing needs, as well as program seasonal labor needs. A generalized management scheme has been outlined for Kentucky bluegrass and tall fescue athletic fields to provide a basic outline for this planning process.

Specific dates, intensity and frequency of practices will vary with geographic location, traffic demands and facility resources.

January-February

The first step toward safer athletic turf is to begin the year with a soil test. Do this as soon as the ground is not frozen. Collect soil samples from the field from a zero to three-inch depth. Combine 20 to 30 core samples in a bucket to make up a single sample for each field.

The next step is to fill low spots. Surface drainage will improve by filling low spots or regrading fields with good topsoil. Let the soil settle for two to three weeks prior to repair. This will allow time for a few soaking rain-

falls to aggregate the new soil. Install internal drainage where needed.

Finally, plan ahead for the months to come. Do this by observing the field for winter disease activity and winter annual weed invasion. Determine the need for renovation and order seed, sod, fertilizer and pesticides. Line up equipment and personnel needed for the year.

March-April

Mowing will become necessary in

Keep the mowers sharp, since dull mowers injure turf, increasing water use and wasting stored food reserves.

these spring months. Begin mowing as soon as turf height exceeds the mowing height by one third. For instance, if your mowing height is two inches, begin mowing at  $2^{2}/_{3}$  inches. Always use sharp mowers.

Aerify the field using a core aerifier. Make at least two passes to alleviate compaction. Use the <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>-inch diameter tines. Break up cores with chain link fence or chain drag. Time

the aeration during a period of rapid foliage growth to minimize weed invasion and to minimize the time the field shows aeration damage.

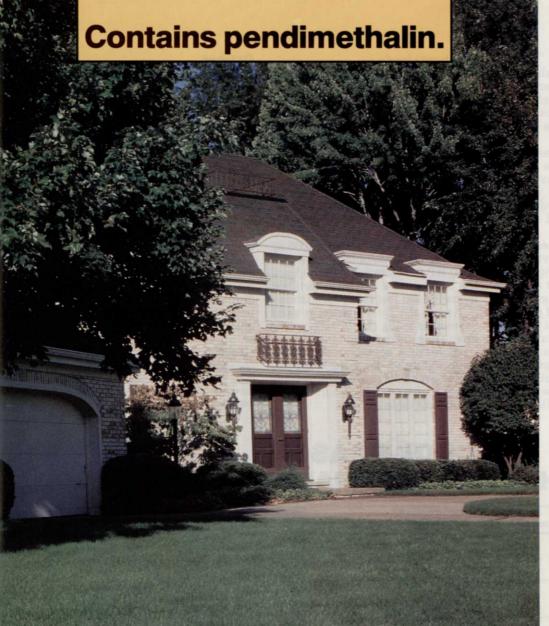
The next move is to apply preemergence herbicides. If crabgrass has been a problem in the past, use a pre-emergence herbicide such as benefin, bensulide, dacthal, napropamide, oxadiazon, pendimethalin or siduron. If goosegrass has been a serious problem, consider using oxadiazon. If early season seeding and crabgrass control are going to be necessary, use siduron.

May

Aerification is still important in late spring. Heavily-trafficked fields may benefit from light aerification in this time frame while the grass has healing potential.

Next, identify the weed and select the most effective herbicide for control. Consider the following alone or in combination: 2,4-D, MCPP (mecoprop), 2,4-DP (dichlorprop), dicamba or triclopyr. Follow label directions closely.

Fertilizing should be done lightly. Apply the equivalent of 0.5 lb. soluble nitrogen per 1000 sq. ft. (22 lb. nitrogen per acre). This can come from various sources of nitrogen. Irrigation after application is generally beneficial.



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#### June-August

Heavily-trafficked fields should be lightly aerified again in early June. Make two passes with <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>-inch diameter tines. Drag the cores into the surface with a chain link fence or chain drag.

Schedule mowing regularly so no more than one-third of the existing grass blade is being removed with each mowing. Keep the mowers sharp, since dull mowers injure turf, increasing water use and wasting stored food reserves.

Irrigate the field as necessary. Water infrequently, but heavily when you do. Early morning irrigation (4 a.m. to 10 a.m.) is the most effective and beneficial. Time irrigation to avoid traffic on wet fields, if possible. In the summer it's important to watch for disease, particularly on tall fescue and perennial ryegrass fields. Rhizoctonia brown patch is the most prevalent and is effectively controlled with Bayleton 25WP, Chipco 26019, Daconil 2787 or Dyrene. Follow label

directions closely.

In late August, it's important to spot-seed or sod-patch thin areas. Light surface disruption with a three-pronged rake is desirable prior to establishment. Lightly foot-trample the seeded or sodded areas to assure seed and sod to soil contact.

#### September

Fertilize according to the soil sample recommendations. If phosphorus (P) and potassium (K) levels are high, use straight nitrogen. Apply the equivalent of 1.0 lb. of nitrogen per 1000 sq. ft. (40 to 50 lb. soluble nitrogen per acre). If P and K are not in the high soil test range, use a complete fertilizer following soil test recommendations.

Aerate the field lightly in early September using the <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>-inch coring tines. Drag the cores into the turf.

At this time, consider repair needs. Overseeding of damaged areas can still be beneficial. Spot-sodding using tightly-butted, thick-cut sod is quickly playable.

#### October

Fertilize by following the September procedure.

Consider the need for broadleaf weed control. Winter annuals germinate in the fall and are most effectively controlled in this time frame. If herbicides are necessary, apply them in strict accordance with the label instructions.

#### November-December

In November, fertilize following the September procedure. In December, consider the repair needs.

After the last game, evaluate the damage to the field and decide on the reasonable methods of repair. If sodding is a possibility, it is best done with cool-season grasses at this time to allow maximum rooting.

Mention of specific products in this sample program does not imply exclusive endorsement of any one product. It was done to simplify the program for educational purposes.

### COOL-SEASON ATHLETIC FIELD MANAGEMENT

	JANUARY FEBRUARY	MARCH APRIL	MAY	JUNE JULY AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
AERATE	Levenine 1	Use coring aerifier. Make at least two passes.	Light aerification.	Light aerification in early June.	Aerate lightly			
DISEASE CONTROL				Watch for disease and treat as necessary.				
FERTILIZE			Fertilize lightly.		Fertilize: follow soil test recommendations.	Follow Sept. procedure	Follow Sept. procedure	
IRRIGATE				As needed. Infrequently, but heavy when you do.	Hei		JU	H
MOW	HECOPE I	Begin mowing as soon as turf height exceeds mowing height by 1/3rd		Regularly.			7 1	
REPAIR	Fill in low spots to improve surface drainage.			MEG	Consider repair needs.			Consider representation
RENOVATE	Determine need for renovation and order seed, sod, fertilizer pesticides.			7000				
SEED/SOD				Spot seed or sod in late August.				
SOIL	Test soil as soon as the ground is not frozen.							
WEED CONTROL	01,000997 Servanoro	Apply pre- emergence herbicides.	Control broadleaf weeds.			Consider broadleaf weed control.	DIVIN MY A	



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