

Selective creeping bentgrass control in fall

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Unightly patches of creeping bentgrass can be selectively controlled in Kentucky bluegrass, tall fescue, or perennial ryegrass with mesotrione (Tenacity). Control with Tenacity is most effective in fall, and can be achieved with numerous application rates and frequencies (Table 1). The basic strategy is to reach the annual maximum use rate (16 fl oz per acre) with several applications. Kentucky bluegrass and tall fescue can tolerate up to 8 oz/A, but the maximum recommended rate for perennial ryegrass is 5 fl oz/A. However, because no fewer than three sequential applications are recommended for best control of creeping bentgrass, it's best to use lower rates even in more tolerant species.

Table 1. Commonly recommended rates and reapplication intervals for creeping bentgrass control with Tenacity.

Rate	Reapplication Interval	Number of Apps
2.0 fl oz/A	5 days	6
4.0 fl oz/A	2 weeks	4
5.3 fl oz/A	2 weeks	3

Tenacity will be less effective later in fall, so it's best to begin applications soon (if you haven't already). Include nonionic surfactant (0.25% v/v) and urea ammonium nitrate (2.5% v/v) to improve control with Tenacity. Creeping bentgrass will turn a brilliant white following application (Figure 1), and so too may desirable turf. Don't be alarmed by this response, and maintain your application schedule. Increasing the reapplication interval to more than two weeks will likely reduce efficacy. Creeping bentgrass is easily confused with nimblewill before the first hard frost in fall (Figure 1). Both produce stolons and have membranous ligules, but nimblewill is sparsely hairy around the collar region and will quickly lose color after the first frost.



Figure 1. Leaf bleaching of a susceptible species after treatment with Tenacity (*left*). Creeping bentgrass (*middle*) and nimblewill (*right*) can appear similar without close inspection – both have membranous ligules, but nimblewill is typically hairy around the collar region.

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