

Poa* control in recovering greens or when overseeding damaged areas*April 9, 2014**

Greens in the eastern half of the state are slow to green-up and we are not positive of the extent of winter damage. Mounds and exposed areas are slowest to green up, and we do not expect serious damage. However, hold off on growth regulators for seedhead suppression and/or *Poa* control until greens are fully and uniform green. These products will further slow green-up and recovery, and can also limit future seeding.

Conversely, controlling *Poa* in new overseedings is critical. Allowing the annual bluegrass to germinate unabated will heal the damaged areas most rapidly, but also maintains or increases the susceptibility to future damage from winter and summer stresses. Therefore, the most sustainable choice is to limit the annual bluegrass during the recovery process. Solid tines should be used if possible to limit bringing new *Poa annua* seeds to the surface. However, much of the damaged creeping bentgrass is in thatchy areas and thus hollow tines should be used to remove as much of the offending thatch as possible. Aggressive herbicide use after seeding is a good option to further limit annual bluegrass. Any seedling damage that may occur with herbicide use will likely be quickly compensated for by reduced competition from annual bluegrass. Following are the current herbicide options:

- Mesotrione (Tenacity™) can be used in the seedbed and/or 30 days after emergence to control annual bluegrass in seedings of Kentucky bluegrass and/or perennial ryegrass. Our data suggest Tenacity is extremely safe over seedlings Kentucky bluegrass and/or perennial ryegrass, but it should not be used on creeping bentgrass and it may damage some cultivars of established perennial ryegrass.
- Bispyribac (Velocity™) can be applied 28 days after emergence of creeping bentgrass or perennial ryegrass. Our research summarized in 2010 indicates more than adequate safety on creeping bentgrass seedlings.
- Ethofumesate (Prograss™) can be 1-2 weeks after emergence of perennial ryegrass, 3-4 weeks after emergence of creeping bentgrass, or 8 WAE of Kentucky bluegrass (Figure 4).
- As mentioned previously, growth regulators that favor the desired species over annual bluegrass should be avoided until the desired turf is mature. Additionally growth regulators that limit seedheads (ethephon [Proxy™]) or (mefluidide [Embark™]) should also be avoided until the desired seedlings are mature.

More information is available in our comprehensive winterkill guide at <http://turf.unl.edu/2014MarchCompWinterkill.pdf>

Zac Reicher, Professor of Turfgrass Science, zreicher2@unl.edu