

Controlling moss or goosegrass in new creeping bentgrass seedlings**June 9, 2014**

In addition to annual bluegrass or crabgrass discussed in previous editions of Turf iNfo, silvery thread moss (Figure 1) and goosegrass are also starting to encroach into winter-damaged greens. All four of these weeds are difficult to control in mature creeping bentgrass and are even more difficult to control in seedlings.

Moss: The frequent recommendation of sand topdressing to control moss will likely damage seedlings unless very light applications and frequent applications are done. Applications should be light enough so that they can be watered in since dragging in topdressing will likely kill young creeping bentgrass. The most popular product for control of silvery thread moss is QuickSilver™ from FMC. The 2.0 oz/A rate is safe on seedlings and can be applied at 7 days after emergence (DAE) on creeping bentgrass. This 2.0 oz/A rate is effective on broadleaf weeds, but the typical moss rate is 6.7 oz/A and this rate can be damaging on seedlings. Discussions with technical representatives from FMC suggest applying 2.0 oz/A at 7DAE and again at 21-35DAE, 4 oz/A at 35-49DAE, and finally 6.7 oz/A at 49-63DAE. Application frequency can be as close as 14 days, but rate and frequency should be based on maturation of the seedlings as well as if any damage was seen from the previous application. Maximum rate of QuickSilver™ is 21 oz/A/season. We are not discounting other moss control products available, but are not comfortable recommending other products because of uncertainty in seedling safety.

Goosegrass: There are no postemergence herbicides labeled for goosegrass control in greens height creeping bentgrass (period), regardless if its seedling or mature. We have experimented with Speedzone™ by PBI Gordon and have found effective control and surprising seeding safety on CBG mowed at fairway height (more information at <http://turf.unl.edu/extpresentationspdf/NE%20Turf%20conference%20goosegrass1.pdf>). Though we are currently working on new treatment combinations that are labeled for greens, our current recommendation is to hold off on attempting control of goosegrass and wait until next year when the creeping bentgrass has matured.

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Figure 1. Silvery thread moss often fills voids in thin creeping bentgrass greens and thus can become a problem in newly-overseeded greens thinned from winter damage.