

**Maximize Bentgrass Control with Mesotrione (Tenacity)**

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Creeping bentgrass in lawns and other tall mowed turf can be a real headache to control. In the past, the most effective treatment was a non-selective herbicide to kill all the turf and then re-seed. Mesotrione (Tenacity, Syngenta) is a newer turf herbicide that selectively controls creeping bentgrass (among other broadleaf and grassy weeds) in Kentucky bluegrass and tall fescue. Fall is the best time to control creeping bentgrass with mesotrione. Multiple applications are required but it is better than the alternative of two applications of roundup and re-seeding. You'll want to make three or four apps starting now on 10 to 14-day intervals. Use the 5 oz/acre rate for three apps or 4 oz/acre if using four applications. The maximum annual rate for mesotrione on turf is 16 oz/acre. Lighter more frequent applications can be even more effective. If you can't make at least three sequential apps then control will be poor and not worth the cost of the herbicide. Finally, the addition of a small amount a non-ionic surfactant (1 oz/3 gallons of water) and ammonium sulfate will help improve control.



Figure 1. Creeping bentgrass may be desirable on a golf course green but not in lawn. Mesotrione will bleach the leaves and slowly kill the creeping bentgrass. Desirable species may show signs of bleaching but will recover.