



Photo by J. Sorochan

Mustard seed meal as a biocontrol for dollar spot

Dollar spot, a common disease on creeping bentgrass, has developed resistance to several commonly used fungicides. Therefore, alternative methods for controlling dollar spot would be valuable to the golf industry. Studies were conducted to determine the effect of Indian mustard seed meal for dollar spot control. Lab studies indicated that mustard seed meal inhibited mycelial growth of the fungus, causing dollar spot. Initial field studies on Crenshaw creeping bentgrass showed that some treatments with mustard seed meal produced unacceptable phytotoxicity. These studies demonstrate the potential for mustard seed meal to control dollar spot, but additional research is needed to determine application rates and frequencies and resulting control. — **Matt Goddard and John Sorochan, Ph.D.** (sorochan@utk.edu), University of Tennessee



Photo by B. Brecke

Annual bluegrass control in overseeded bermudagrass

Annual bluegrass can be a troublesome weed in overseeded bermudagrass. Field studies were con-

ducted during 2003 and 2004 to evaluate selected herbicides for controlling annual bluegrass in bermudagrass overseeded with perennial ryegrass. Herbicides were applied before overseeding in October in areas naturally infested with annual bluegrass. In the first study, TranXit (rimsulfuron) provided 80% to 90% annual bluegrass control 20 weeks after application. In the second study, TranXit, Certainty (sulfosulfuron), Monument (trifloxysulfuron) and flazasulfuron provided 75% to 85% control 20 weeks after application. In the third study, Velocity (bispyribac sodium) applied post-emergence at first annual bluegrass bloom provided 75% to 85% control four to six weeks after treatment. Effective herbicide options are available to control annual bluegrass in overseeded bermudagrass. — **Barry Brecke, Ph.D.** (bjbe@ifas.ufl.edu), University of Florida-Jay



Photo by M. Richardson

Slope stabilization using a turfgrass germination blanket

Soil erosion on slopes before establishment of a vegetative cover is a serious problem during golf course construction and renovation. A cellulose-based seed-germination blanket was compared to traditional seeding and hydroseeding of tall fescue to reduce soil erosion. Plots were placed on bare soil on a 5% slope, and rainfall was applied at 2 inches (5 centimeters) per hour; runoff was collected for analysis. The seed-germination blanket significantly delayed runoff from the slope compared to the other two establishment methods. In addition, runoff water from the plots covered with the seed germination blanket contained significantly less sediment, soluble phosphorus and nitrate compared to runoff from the other plots. Establishment of tall fescue was similar for all treatments. These studies clearly demonstrated that a cellulose-based seed-germination blanket could significantly reduce the environmental impact of erosion during turfgrass establishment. — **Michael Richardson, Ph.D.** (mricha@uark.edu), University of Arkansas

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