



Photo by J. Willis

Partial control of overseeded grasses as a novel approach to spring transition

Overseeded grasses must be eliminated in spring to sustain bermudagrass health and provide high-quality summer playing conditions. Attempts at low-rate and repeat treatments of transition-assisting herbicides have had limited success. Preliminary research techniques that partially control the overseeded turf have shown promise for improving transition without a drastic reduction in overseeded turf quality. This research will examine two techniques for partially controlling overseeded turf — drip application and sponge application of transition-assisting herbicides — and compare them to a blanket application of transition-assisting herbicides. Partially controlling the overseeded turf will allow the bermudagrass to begin growing earlier in spring than a blanket herbicide application will. The results of this research will help superintendents develop more-gradual spring transition strategies. This research is funded in part by the Virginia GCSA, the Virginia Turfgrass Foundation and The Environmental Institute for Golf. — Shawn Askew, Ph.D. (saskew@vt.edu), Virginia Tech



2007 GCSAA research grants

In response to GCSAA's annual request for proposals, researchers submitted 27 proposals requesting more than \$550,000 in funding over a three-year period. GCSAA's Research Task Group approved

nine of the 27 projects to begin in 2007 with total funding of more than \$157,000 over the next three years. Eight of the nine are Chapter Cooperative Research Program projects, and one is a Michael Hurdzan Endowment Fund/Chapter Cooperative project. All the projects focus on applied research, which is problem-solving research that yields results that superintendents can put into practice. The new research will be profiled in the Cutting Edge over the next four months. The Environmental Institute for Golf provides funding for GCSAA's share of the projects. The Institute is a collaborative effort of the environmental and golf communities dedicated to strengthening golf's compatibility with the natural environment. — Clark Throssell, Ph.D. (cthrossell@gcsaa.org), Director of Research, GCSAA



Photo by J. Kaminski

Influence of phosphonates, wetting agents and fertilizers on algae on greens

Algae infestation on putting greens continues to be difficult to manage, and superintendents often rely on the application of a limited number of fungicides for control. Serendipitous observations from previous research showed a dramatic reduction in algae growth from a phosphonate-based fungicide, a wetting agent and various nitrogen sources. The objectives of this research are to determine the ability of various phosphonates, phosphites and wetting agents to suppress algae growth on golf course putting greens. Studies will also be designed to determine the influence of various nitrogen sources and phosphorus fertility programs on algae growth. The results will help superintendents develop effective algae management programs for putting greens. This research is funded in part by the Tri-State Turfgrass Association, Connecticut GCSA, Metropolitan GCSA, Northeastern GCSA, the New Hampshire GCSA and The Environmental Institute for Golf. — John Kaminski, Ph.D., (john.kaminski@uconn.edu) University of Connecticut



Clark Throssell is GCSAA's director of research.

Clark Throssell, Ph.D.