

Penn State's Center for Sports Surface Research

THE SPORTSTURF SCOOP

Summer Establishment of Tall Fescue Athletic Fields





Turfgrass Species on Athletic Fields

- Turfgrass Selection
 - Perennial Ryegrass
 - K. Bluegrass
 - Tall Fescue
 - Forms clumps
 - Unaesthetic
 - Turf-type tall fescue??





Tall Fescue

- Advantages
 - Drought tolerance
 - Heat tolerance
 - Fertilization





Summer Establishment

- Obstacles
 - Short time period
 - Limited irrigation
 - disease pressure with irrigation and fertility





Penn State Research Study

 Can turf-type tall fescue be planted in late spring / early summer and be ready for fall play?

Is perennial ryegrass still a better option?



Penn State Research Study

- Scenario:
 - Seed in late May or early June
 - Field ready for play by late August
 - Access to irrigation





Research Findings – Wear Tolerance

- Establishment time matters!
 - 10 weeks P. ryegrass
 is better option
 - 14 weeks turf-type tall fescue is equal or better option





Turf-Type Tall Fescue Cultivars

- <u>8 tall fescue cultivars</u> in study
 - Most Traffic Tolerant
 - Turbo, Rembrandt, Falcon V, Rebel IV
 - Moderate Traffic
 Tolerant
 - Faith, Shenandoah III, Firecracker LS
 - Least Traffic Tolerant
 - Justice





Tall Fescue Seeding Rates

- Seeding Rates
 - 6, 10, 14, and 18 lbs / 1000ft²
 - No difference in wear tolerance between seeding rates
 - 6 lbs / 1000 ft² is adequate





Fertilization



- Nitrogen Rates
 - 2.0, 4.5, and 7.0 lbs N / 1000 ft²
 - Most traffic tolerant:
 2.0 lbs N / 1000 ft²
 applied at seeding
 - Slow release (30% WIN)



Penn State Research Results

- 14-week establishment time needed for turftype tall fescue to compete with P. rye
- Most wear resistant cultivars: Turbo, Rembrandt, Falcon V, Rebel IV
- Seeding rate over 6 lbs / 1000 ft² not needed
- 2 lbs. of N / 1000 ft² at time of seeding



Things To Think About

- 14 weeks of no use?
- Access to irrigation?
- Treat for disease (brown patch)?
- Crabgrass pressure?





Overseeding

- During the season
 - Perennial ryegrass

- Spring / Summer
 - Turf-Type tall fescue





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