

## Pre-emergent *Poa annua* Control in Non-overseeded Bermudagrass

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*Poa annua* is an endemic weed in US golf turf and is a significant weed problem for non-overseeded Bermudagrass. Control measures are simplified if climatic conditions provide dormant Bermudagrass each winter as low cost post-emergent options can be employed. However, complete dormancy is not predictable in most California locations and pre-emergent herbicides are an especially critical tool. Several pre-emergence herbicide options are available but timing is critical for optimum performance.

Due to the climatic and micro-climatic differences between and within golf courses in California proper timing in relation to fall *Poa annua* germination is more complicated than in other parts of the US. A compilation of research trial results from the Southeast indicates application in August or September is effective. However, trials in CA have shown that September can be too late for some sites some years. A review of conditions that trigger germination may help provide guidelines for specific sites and various fall conditions. Bruce Branham showed that germination primarily occurs when soil temperatures (0-2 inch) are between 60 and 72 degrees F. Ron Calhoun indicated that peak germination was 68-72 degrees at 0-2 inch soil depth and is minimal below 58 degrees and above 78 degrees F.

If one considers that fall germination can begin at the end of summer as soil temperatures at 0-1 inch drop below 78 degrees F (and near optimum at 72 degrees) then mid to late August timing for a pre-emergence herbicide makes sense for many locations in southern CA and mid-September can be too late. A recent entry into the market, Indaziflam (Specticle 20 WSP), simplifies timing as it provides effective pre-emergence control plus post-emergence control of *Poa annua* seedlings. Indaziflam allows for a broader window of application for *Poa annua* control as compared to other pre-emergent herbicides registered in California. Research indicates that indaziflam application in September through early October is effective for *Poa annua* control in California.