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OVERSEEDING PLATINUM TETM

The first recommendation in transition areas is to avoid overseeding Platinum TE if at all possible. The increased requirement for irrigation water, the challenge involved with establishment of any cool season turfgrass into a very dense paspalum canopy, the expected use of saline irrigation water that might surpass the salt tolerance threshold of the particular cool season grass cultivar, the challenges with transitioning into overseeding in the Fall and transitioning out of overseeding in the Spring, and the overall management adjustments needed to sustain playability on both grass types are reasons to avoid overseeding if possible. Spraying with a green plant dye, application of green topdressing sand, and application of a biosolid organic fertilizer to absorb heat during the day and moderate cool/cold temperature conditions at the paspalum grass surface/soil interface during cold nighttime conditions are options when not overseeding.

If you decide to overseed Platinum TE, the following guidelines should be followed:

- 1. Adjust the irrigation schedule to longer duration application events, but less frequent to 'set' the Platinum TE root system (especially the rhizomes) deeper in the upper soil profile. Rhizomes should be positioned at the 1-2 inch (25-50 mm) depth or deeper.
- 2. Never cut a rhizome, or this grass will revert to a 'root regeneration mode' and all the carbohydrates will be channeled to the root system. Once a rhizome is cut, the total priority of the grass is focused on the root system and not the shoots or shoot canopy density maintenance.
- 3. Do not for any reason scalp the paspalum or significantly reduce height of cut rapidly on Platinum TE. Establish the mowing height at the lowest cut desired to establish the overseed—normally 1 inch or 25 mm or slightly lower in roughs and 0.50 inch (12 mm) on fairways.
- 4. Spray Primo at 5-7 oz/acre to slow down paspalum shoot growth and reduce the competitiveness of this grass as the new cool season grass seedlings emerge and establish in the canopy.
- 5. Run the groomers in a deeper than normal position or verticut lightly, just cutting surface stolons, and plant the seed to fall into these channels. Depending on water quality (salinity load), you may need to increase the seed volume planted up to 25% higher, planting in different directions and/or utilizing weekly seeding over a 3-week period.
- 6. Topdress with sand and/or an organic fertilizer to hold moisture during cool season seed germination. Note: if salinity in the irrigation water is below 1250 ppm total dissolved salts, you may want to apply a retention aide wetting agent that will temporarily hold moisture near the surface to enhance cool season grass germination. If TDS is higher, use only penetrant wetting agents to promote salt ion movement down into the soil profile and away from the emerging cool season grass juvenile roots.
- 7. Fertility program should be predominately a liquid program during cool season grass germination and establishment. Liquid calcium sources (calcium nitrate, calcium gluconate, calcium acetate, calcium chelated with amino acids or alcohols) should be applied weekly after overseeding for the first 8 weeks.
- 8. Minimize nitrogen applications until the paspalum goes completely winter temperature dormant since Platinum TE has a tremendous capacity for storing any N residuals in products applied during colder temperatures to benefit the cool season grass.

- 9. Spray silicates (calcium or potassium silicate) prior to planting the overseeded cool season turfgrass to enhance nutritional adjustments to saline irrigation water during germination and early establishment.
- 10. Select a salt tolerant cool season cultivar if irrigating with saline water.

Transitioning out of the cool season overseed during the Spring:

- a) Lower the height of cut on the canopy to expose more of the paspalum shoots and stolons to sunlight when soil and air temperatures are >65 F. Do not scalp the seashore paspalum canopy.
- b) Avoid applying Primo or similar gibberellin-inhibitor plant growth regulators to slow down the cool season growth since that application could significantly slow down canopy density recovery of the seashore paspalum.
- c) Any fertilizer amendments should be applied with the focus on the seashore paspalum and not the overseeded cool season grass.
- d) Depending on the cool season grass species and specific cultivar, there is the option of waiting for increasing hot temperatures to aid in the transitioning out of the cool season cultivar.

REFERENCES

D.M. Kopec, J. Gilbert, M. Pessarakli, and S.P. Nolan. 2014. Overseeding preparation techniques for fairway seashore paspalum. Golf Course Maintenance February (2):94-99.

M. Volterrani, S, Miele, S. Magni, M. Gaetani, and G. Pardini. 2001. Bermudagrass and seashore paspalum winter overseeded with seven cool-season turfgrasses. International Turfgrass Society Research Journal 9(2001):957-961.

11. Chemical transitioning out of the cool season grass overseed: in combination with increasing temperatures, apply 1 oz/1000 sq. ft. rate of Prograss® (ethofumesate: takes 21-28 days for transition) or normal rate of Kerb® (pronamide).

→Additional herbicides: Manor or Blade (metsulfuron methyl: normal labeled rate; will take 14-21 days to transition); Revolver (foramsulfuron: must use low 0.2 fl. oz./1000 sq. ft. rate; some environmental x grass interactions at higher rates can result in 30-50% injury on paspalum for about 3-4 weeks); Katana (flazasulfuron: rate must be <1/5 oz/acre; higher rates can cause 30% injury on paspalum for up to 3 weeks)

12. On chemical transitioning: remember that sulfonylureas are fast acting (7-14 days), are faster acting with warm temperatures and moisture, and timing of application must be coordinated with greenup of the paspalum understory.