

SEED RESEARCH OF OREGON

The germination of ideas

FEATURES

- Certified blend
- Cultivars with proven performance
- Genetic diversity
- Broad adaptation
- High disease resistance
- Uses: Ideal for fairways and tees

BENEFITS

- Cost effective
- Prevents weeds
- Maintains stand
- Reduces pesticide use

SEEDING RATE

- Seeds/lb: 6,000,000
Seeds/kg: 13,200,000
- New turf:
1–1.5 lbs/1,000 sq ft
45–65 lbs/acre
5–7.5 gr/m²
50–75 kgs/hectare
- Overseeding/Interseeding:
2–3 lbs/1,000 sq ft
10–15 gr/m²
90–135 lbs/acre
100–150 kgs/hectare

ESTABLISHMENT

- Germination: 3–5 days (6–10 in cooler weather)
- First mowing: approximately 21 days, depending on usage

FAIRWAY METAL

CREEPING BENTGRASS BLEND

Fairway Metal is a certified blend of improved creeping bentgrass varieties selected for superior fairway and tee performance. Seed Research of Oregon has been developing superior bentgrass varieties for many years and this blend is an opportunity to improve your fairways or tees at a competitive price.



Under many circumstances you may need to overseed your bentgrass fairways or tees due to winter damage, summer stress, irrigation repair or other factors. Fairway Metal creeping bentgrass blend is perfect to have on hand for those quick repairs necessary on every course. It can also be part of the gradual conversion process from *Poa annua* or perennial ryegrass to bentgrass, which requires a commitment to multiple seedings over many years, plus changes in turf management.

Regular interseeding is an important tool for turf managers. It builds a seed bank of the desirable species, ready to germinate if any hole in the canopy occurs due to divots, wear, disease or insect damage. Without the desired species present it is more likely that weeds will become established in that hole. Fairway Metal is ideal for this usage since the wide genetic diversity enables the best plants for the environment to become established.

Fairway Metal includes varieties developed over many years that exhibit superior fairway and tee performance. As a backbone it includes SR 1119 or Providence, which have been successfully used around the world for superior fairways and tees. We add in other improved creeping bentgrass cultivars from our breeding program including Brighton, Sandhill or SR 1020.

BENTGRASS CONVERSION – IT CAN WORK!

By Dr. Leah Brillman — Seed Research of Oregon

Bentgrass conversion can refer to changing from one bentgrass cultivar to another, or converting from *Poa annua* or perennial ryegrass to bentgrass. All of these can be done on greens, tees and fairways but the success rate depends on many factors. These factors include the climate zone of the course, the acceptable amount of disruption of the playing surface, timing of conversion and amount of perseverance.



Key Concepts

- *Bentgrass seedlings are very small and initially weak. Some varieties such as **Tyee, 007** and **SR 1150** have greater seedling vigor and can greatly increase your chances of success.*
- *In competition for critical resources including light, water and nutrients the established plant always has an advantage over the seedlings.*
- *Timing the winter-overseeding to correspond with favorable growing conditions is extremely important. In some regions this may be a fall application, whereas in other regions it may be in the late spring or early summer.*
- *The existing plants must be weakened to give the seedlings a chance to compete.*
- *Conversion is more difficult in milder climates where existing turf has a longer period of active growth (and minimal seasonal dormancy).*
- *The new seedlings must be kept moist, which can make the existing playing surface softer and slower.*
- *The microclimate within the canopy may be favorable to Pythium spp. outbreaks.*

Bentgrass to Bentgrass or *Poa annua* to Bentgrass

Success in any conversion depends on the relative competitiveness of the new bentgrass seedlings, the climatic and regional adaptation of *Poa annua*, the health of the stand before conversion, the timing of the seeding and the level of acceptable disruption.

1. Apply a growth regulator such as Primo®, Cutless®, Turf Enhancer®, Prograss®, Embark® or Proxy® — growth regulators that damage turf quality are often more effective but less aesthetically acceptable. **Do not apply a preemergent before seeding.** (Always follow labeled rates and recommendations)
2. Reduce height of cut on existing turf (scalp - <0.115" – or lower).
3. Verticut heavily to reduce any thatch and further weaken existing turf (this can also be done after core aerifying).
4. Core aerify with largest acceptable tines to create holes in canopy. Solid tines may also be used. The aim is to allow seedlings time to establish before competition returns and to assure seed-soil contact.
5. Top-dress or drag in cores to fill holes.
6. Best times for conversion are late spring, through the summer until late summer. *Pythium* control is very important – Allegiance® treatment of the seed will give you 14–17 days of *Pythium* control. Go as late in the spring as you can and still maintain acceptable playing conditions. Go as early in the fall as play allows. Seeding dates of June 19, July 1, August 17 and 20 most successful in New Jersey. August seeding dates were also better at Purdue University. Dr. Watschke at Penn State reports that at soil temperatures above 70° bentgrass germination is favored over *Poa annua*.
7. Seed with **Tyee, 007, SR 1150, SR 1119, Providence, SR 1020, Brighton, Dominant, Dominant Plus, Dominant X-treme or Dominant X-treme 7** at 1-2 lb./1000 ft² and topdress or drag seed into surface. Seed-soil contact is vital.
8. Keep surface moist – Stay on the dry side if converting from *Poa annua*.
9. Fertilize lightly after seedlings germinate with quickly available nitrogen source.
10. Keep height of cut low to enable more light to seedlings and reduce growth of existing stand (<0.125").
11. Dimension may be applied 14-21 days after seedling emergence to limit *Poa annua* competition (Reicher, 2003).
12. Repeat spring and fall for at least two years. Significant results are generally observable in the third year.

References

- Bigelow, C.A. and D.R. Chalmers. <http://sudan.cses.vt.edu/html/Turf/bigelow.htm>
- Kopek, D.M. <http://ag.arizona.edu/turf/glf0399b.html>
- Murphy, J.M. et. al. 1999. 1999 Rutgers Turfgrass Proceedings. pg. 227-238.
- Ralston-Hooper, K. and Z. Reicher. 2002. www.agry.purdue.edu/turf/report/2002/page80.pdf
- Reicher, Z. and Hardebeck, G. 1997. Conversion of fairways without using nonselective herbicides.
- Annual Purdue Turfgrass Research Report (1997).
- Watschke, T.L. 1997. Convert your fairway to bentgrass. Grounds Maintenance. July.