

Perennial *Poa* Suppression in Bentgrass Greens/Fairways/Tees

Paclobutrazol	Rate/Acre	Repeat Treatments	Tank Mix
Trimmit 2SC	8-16 fl.oz. product	Each 3 Weeks	With 0.25 lbs. actual
Turf Enhancer 2SC	8-16 fl.oz. product	Apr to Nov.	N/1000 sq ft

Flurprimidol
Cutless 50W 8-16 oz. product
(choose one of the above)

Trimmit/Turf Enhancer/Cutless (abbreviated TTC)

- (1) TTC activity is similar to Primo except TTC gives greater growth regulation of *Poa* than bent.
- (2) If *Poa* is predominant species, use TTC unless *Poa* becomes extremely weak in hot summer and the bentgrass is not filling-in.
- (3) If little *Poa* is present, use either TTC or Primo for quality enhancement and growth regulation.
- (4) If *Poa* is predominant and desired, then only Primo will improve *Poa* quality.
- (5) Primo will give longer/greater bent growth regulation. TTC will not kill *Poa*, but will greatly regulate *Poa* growth.

Rate/Acre, 8-16 oz. product/acre

Rate is not critical for *Poa* suppression:

- (1) Can use higher rate to give slightly longer growth regulation of *Poa*.
- (2) May use lower rate in summer or when first initiating *Poa* program on greens.
- (3) Should use lower rate when *Poa* is dominant species and bent stand appears to be inadequate for grow-in.
- (4) May use lower rate or extend application interval when *Poa* appears to be greatly stressed/regulated in summer.
- (5) **LABEL RESTRICTION for paclobutrazol:** Maximum use rate of 128 fluid oz. product/acre/year.

Repeat Treatments, every 3 Weeks Apr to Nov.

- (1) Initiate treatments after spring green-up and quit when fall growth subsides.
- (2) If DMI fungicides are used, reduce the potential for over-regulation by omitting TTC for about 1 week prior or 1 week after DMI application. Check PPA – 1 www.ca.uky.edu/agc/pubs/ppa/ppa1/ppa1.pdf for a list of DMI fungicides.

N Fertilization – Rate of Soluble N, approximately 0.25 lbs N/1000 sq ft.

Bent growth **must continue** for successful conversion. Continue normal fertilizer program that includes granular, specialty turf fertilizers. Supplement the normal N program with TTC tank mix with soluble N for each treatment made.

---Applying 24 pounds of urea (46-0-0) fertilizer per acre is equivalent to 11 lbs actual N/ acre or 0.25 lbs actual N /1000 sq ft.

---Applying 0.54 lbs of urea (46-0-0) per 1000 sq ft is equivalent to 0.25 lbs actual N/1000 sq ft.

---Other water soluble N products are available but be sure the N is mostly readily available and the labeled N rate is approximately equivalent to 0.25 lbs N/1000 sq ft.

Additional information:

(1) TTC **will not** control *Poa* seedheads, but may delay their appearance for one to three weeks. If Embark is used in early spring for seedhead control, delay TTC applications until 2 weeks after last Embark treatment.

(2) Summer applications are most effective in stressing and suppressing perennial *Poa*; fall applications are most effective in preventing *Poa* establishment from seed.

(3) Fall TTC applications will greatly suppress germinating *Poa*; therefore there is no proven need for fall pre-emerge applications if TTC is applied every three weeks - all fall.

(4) Apply ¼ inch irrigation within 24 hours after PAC applications and prior to clipping removal to achieve best efficacy.

(5) Delay aerification and topdressing until about 2 weeks after last TTC application; then delay next TTC application for another 1-2 weeks after aerification/topdressing.

(6) TTC applications should not increase common bent diseases such as dollar spot, brown patch or pythium, and will likely reduce dollar spot.

EXPECTATIONS:

(1) Turf Quality:

Expect some off-colored *Poa* at the onset of applications and onset of summer heat stress. Otherwise, all quality aspects will normally be similar to that of Primo. All PGRs tend to make *Poa* species mimic bentgrass, especially older, segregated bentgrass that has many differing genotypes. Therefore it is a waste of time and effort to try to evaluate success of the *Poa* program except during the spring flowering period (usually April and early May). At that time it is easy to differentiate *Poa* because of the presence of flowers, coarser textured leaves, lighter green color of most genotypes, and coarser stolons.

(2) *Poa* Reduction:

Except for excessive *Poa* contamination, this program will likely reduce *Poa* from 30-70% the first complete year. If significant *Poa* is removed during one year, the bentgrass will likely be coarse in texture and grainy, resulting in a thinner stand of bentgrass during the summer and early fall.

Fine-textured, dark green *Poa* types will be most difficult to remove. The light green, coarse textured genotypes will likely go out the first year.

If a large percentage of *Poa* is suppressed the first year, then a growth regulator for seedhead suppression may not be needed the following spring.

Even though *Poa* may be significantly reduced the first full year of treatments, this program will be an on-going program. *Poa* is never completely eliminated and the original cause of *Poa* encroachment is not likely to have changed.

Poa genotypes that survive the first or second year of treatments may continue to slowly increase. However, the overall % *Poa* cover is greatly reduced, its increase is very slow and the perennial genotypes that survive are often fine textured, dark green and have a very short spring flowering period.

On old greens with very large *Poa* patches, *Poa* reduction will be much slower because bentgrass competition must occur from the outside edge of the *Poa* patches, and not necessarily from within the *Poa* patch. Most often however,

you will immediately see many recovering bentgrass tillers growing from within the *Poa* patch. On bentgrass fairways that are heavily infested with perennial *Poa*, current research includes a combination of TTC and Velocity (bispiribac-sodium); which may be effective to more rapidly reduce all *Poa* types from bentgrass.

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