Effects of Plant Age on the Resistance of Kentucky Bluegrass Cultivars to Black Cutworm. (C05-eaton102406-Oral)

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Abstract:

Recent studies suggest that the species Kentucky bluegrass (Poa pratensis L.) exhibits measurable resistance to black cutworm (Agrotis ipsilon). However, specific resistance mechanism(s) of Kentucky bluegrass are unknown. Subsequently, feeding bioassays were conducted to determine the effects of plant age on the survival of black cutworm. The feeding bioassays included Kentucky bluegrass cultivars from each of twelve types classified by morphological traits. Feeding assays were conducted using Kentucky bluegrass plants of two distinct ages. The first age group consisted of plants less than 60 days old (i.e., vegetative) and the second age group included plants that were at least one year old (i.e., reproductive). Plant damage ratings, larval weights, instar distribution, and survival data were recorded. Results from this research could provide important information in the selection and breeding of turfgrasses used for golf course turf.

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