Crabrass and Broadleaf Weed Control in Turf using Corn Gluten Meal Based Fertilizer. (C05-gunn082823-Poster)

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Abstract:

Corn gluten meal based fertilizers were tested for efficacy on reductions of crabgrass and broadleaf weed infestation in turf. Treatments in 2001 consisted of corn gluten meal based fertilizer (8-2-4) applied at two rates; waste-based (sewage sludge) fertilizer, Vitorganic 8-2-0; a turkey manure based fertilizer, PG Mix 6-2-4; and a pre-emergence herbicide standard (dithiopyr). An additional treatment of a new corn gluten meal blend (8-2-4) was added in 2002, as well as a greenhouse component. Data collected included presence of crabgrass and broadleaf weeds, phytotoxicity to fine turf species, as well as turf functional features (quality, uniformity, density, colour). The corn gluten meal treatment at the higher rate showed effective control of crabgrass and was not significantly different than dithiopyr. Also, corn gluten meal at the higher rate and PG mix had generally the best effect on turf performance over the course of the experiment. There were no consistent or significant effects of any of the treatments on the broadleaf weed presence, though there were trends towards reducing weed presence with the fertilizer treatments compared to the dithiopyr.

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Presentation Information:

Presentation Date: Tuesday, November 12, 2002
Presentation Time: 9:00-11:00 am
Poster Board Number: 1140

Keywords:

Corn Gluten Meal, Crabgrass, Broadleaf Weeds, Fertilizer