Impact of Various Chemical and Nutrient Inputs and Cultural Treatments on TifEagle Bermudagrass Quality. (C05-unruh104023-Oral)

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Abstract:

A two year study was conducted at the University of Florida, West Florida Research and Education Center - Jay on a TifEagle bermudagrass putting green to assess the impact of various macro- and micro-nutrient fertility sources and application rates and frequencies when applied to turf mowed at 2.8 or 3.6 mm and verticut either once or twice a week. Ammonium sulfate, methylene urea, iron, and manganese applications were made on weekly or biweekly intervals. Additional treatments included a preventative fungicide regimen (fosetyl-Al and iprodione) and plant growth regulators (PGRs) including trinexapac-ethyl and ethephon. After one year, no differences were noted in mat/thatch thickness regardless of treatment combination. Improved quality and color were noted in plots receiving frequent fertility applications at lower rates and preventative fungicides, especially for the lower height of cut turf. As time progressed, verticut turf quality declined and higher dollar spot disease incidence was observed compared to turf not verticut. Turf treated with PGRs, regardless of rate, exhibited decreased turf quality and substantially increased dollar spot disease activity.

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