Evaluating Practices to Speed Divot Recovery. (C05-voigt140428-Oral)

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Abstract:

Golf course superintendents devote labor and material resources to repairing divots on tees and fairways. In studies conducted at the University of Illinois Landscape Horticulture Research Center in Urbana, IL, during spring, summer, and fall, 2001, turfgrass genotypes, soil mixes, and ratios of seed and soil in mixes were evaluated to optimize divot repair. First, most cultivars of creeping bentgrass performed similarly in spring, summer, and fall. A blend of 'Baron', 'Monopoly', and 'SR 2000' Kentucky bluegrasses would perform well in a divot mix across all seasons. Second, a good, general-purpose divot-repair mix would be comprised of an 8:1:1 mix of sand:compost:soil, respectively. Exceptions to this occurred in the spring and fall; Kentucky bluegrass in the spring, and both species in the fall, performed well using the 100% compost divot mix. Finally, for creeping bentgrass, a mix containing 5 % seed by volume is desirable for divot repair mixes. Kentucky bluegrass divot mixes should contain at least 10%, but no more than 15% seed, by volume.

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