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Research Update: Herbicide Use Over Newly-Seeded Buffalograss
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With the drought this year, many are rethinking grass choices in lawns, on acreages, in golf course roughs, etc., and many are leaning to buffalograss in low maintenance areas. Though buffalograss requires very little maintenance once established, regular irrigation, fertilization, and mowing in the year of seeding or plugging will maximize fill-in and reduce long-term inputs (sodded buffalograss can get by with less inputs than seeded buffalograss in its first year).

The optimum period for seeding buffalograss is in May, which is the same time that crabgrass, foxtails, and many broadleaf weeds are germinating. Therefore, weed control is critical to maximize establishment of buffalograss. Products containing quinclorac have been the stand-by during buffalograss establishment for controlling annual grasses and many broadleaf weeds. Many of the newer herbicides or herbicide combinations may have adequate tolerance and efficacy for use in buffalograss seedings, so we started a multi-year evaluationof products.

We applied 13 herbicides at their recommended rate for use in seedling turf on the day of seeding (23 May 2012), at the 1-3 leaf stage (8 June 2012), or at the 2-3 tiller stage (26 June 2012) of 'Bowie' or 'Sundancer' buffalograss. These stands were managed to maximize establishment with regular mowing at 2", 0.5 lbs N/1000 sq ft/month, and irrigated to encourage germination and establishment. We evaluated buffalograss tolerance and control of common purslane and redroot pigweed which were the prevalent weeds on this site.

View the study results.