

Dismiss Case Study 2007-1 Tantallon Country Club

Tantallon Country Club, located in a historic Ft. Washington, Maryland just south of Washington DC, enjoys a diverse membership of locals and local celebrities. The beautiful tree-lined, rolling fairways and challenging greens are part of what makes this a memorable golfing experience for the members. Situated on the banks of the Potomac River, Tantallon offers an inspiring view of the Washington monument and a reminder of just how close you really are to the nation's capitol.

Like most golf courses, this one is not without its agronomic challenges. While the Potomac River adds to the unique experience of this course, it brings with it a few features that require significant management by the golf course superintendent and his crew.



“We are just a foot or two above the river on some of our fairways,” says Superintendent Todd Gribling, pictured at left. “Being that close to the water table creates an ideal environment where moisture-loving weeds like yellow nutsedge and green kyllinga tend to be problematic. We needed to find a solution that works better than the sedge products we had been using.”

In late summer of 2006, Gribling agreed to a trial on one of his creeping bentgrass fairways with Dismiss® turf herbicide from FMC Professional Solutions. He staked off a thousand square feet in the midst of a well established stand of green kyllinga (*Kyllinga brevifolia*). Dismiss was applied at 4 ounces per acre on a bright sunny day in September, followed by a second application at the same rate 21 days later.

“I couldn’t believe my eyes,” says Gribling. “Within four hours after treatment, I started to see activity on the kyllinga. Within two weeks, it was totally browned out and we couldn’t have been happier.”

“The picture tells the story better than words ever could,” says Tom Walsh, sales representative with UAP Professional Products. “This picture (photo below) was taken 30 days after the initial application and you can clearly see that the kyllinga is dead.”

Because the kyllinga populations were so significant, Gribling knew that he would have to deal with bare ground once control was achieved. To quickly establish a new stand of creeping bentgrass, Gribling relied on his agronomic experience to manage this area back into a playable fairway. As he worked to reestablish the turf in the test plot area, Gribling watched carefully for any detrimental effects of the treatment to the newly seeded bentgrass. “I didn’t see any lack of vigor, any turf discoloration and I don’t think Dismiss affected germination either,” says Gribling. It should be noted here that the label recommends reseeding at one month after application.



“We were impressed with the performance Dismiss gave our customer last fall,” adds Walsh, “but we weren’t prepared for what we would find the following spring.”



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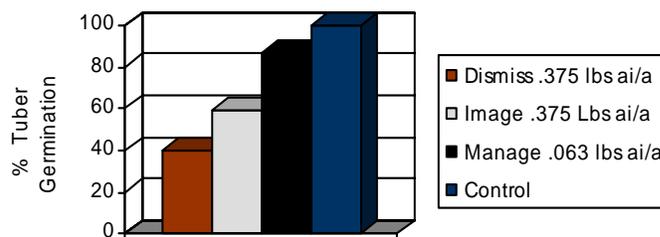


As expected, green kyllinga came back with a vengeance on this fairway the following spring. Except for the Dismiss treated area. That was one thousand square feet of healthy creeping bentgrass. Taken in May, 2007, the photo at left shows the Dismiss treated area surrounded by green kyllinga.

“We had heard a couple of university researchers talk about nutlet control with Dismiss,” Walsh adds. “We think that what we are seeing here is a dramatically reduced population of kyllinga based on the soil activity of Dismiss.”

Sulfentrazone, the active ingredient in Dismiss, is a PPO inhibitor that works by foliar contact. In addition, Dismiss is adsorbed by roots and taken up by the plant through soil activity. Data from the University of Florida indicates that Dismiss treated soil significantly effects the germination of nutlets found in that soil.

“We were sold on Dismiss as soon as we saw the results this spring after our fall application,” says Gribling, “and we have since incorporated it into our treatment protocol as the standard for nutsedge control.”



Dr. B. Brecke, University of Florida

The entire fairway was treated on May 14, 2007 with Dismiss at 4 oz/acre in 44 gallons of water per acre on a sunny, 75° F afternoon. Flat fan nozzles were used at 50 psi. The regular irrigation schedule was followed after application,



however no rainfall had been measured between application date and May 25, 2007, the date of the photos here. The test plot area pictured above is clearly visible, as is the effect of the Dismiss treatment on surrounding sedges. The close-up view at right shows both the activity on target weeds, including yellow nutsedge (*Cyperus esculentus*) and green kyllinga, as well as the turf tolerance to Dismiss exhibited by most

creeping bentgrass varieties.

“Our owners are ecstatic,” says Gribling. “But, more importantly, our members are very happy with the play that our pristine fairways will offer them now that we have found a solution to sedges that really works.”



Photos 11 Days After Treatment

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