FRAZE MOWING COOL-SEASON TURF: a crazy idea

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WHY FRAZE MOW IN COOL-SEASON TURF

• Remove weeds and weed seed
• Level surfaces for replanting
• Thatch removal
Creeping bentgrass immediately after fraze mowing
Creeping bentgrass, 4 weeks after fraze mowing

Deeper, 10 mm

Shallow, 0 mm
Creeping bentgrass, 7 weeks after fraze mowing.
Kentucky bluegrass immediately after fraze mowing

- Shallow, 2 mm
- Deeper, 10 mm
- Deeper, 15 mm
- Deeper, 12 mm
Deeper, 12 mm

Deeper, 15 mm

Kentucky bluegrass 2 weeks after fraze mowing

Deeper, 10 mm

Shallow, 2 mm
Deeper, 10 mm
Deeper, 12 mm
Deeper, 15 mm
Kentucky bluegrass 3 weeks after fraze mowing
Shallow, 2 mm
Kentucky bluegrass 4 weeks after fraze mowing
Kentucky bluegrass

Deeper, 10 mm

Shallow, 2 mm

6 weeks later

Deeper, 15 mm

Deeper, 12 mm
Perennial ryegrass, immediately after fraze mowing

Deeper, 10 mm

Shallow, 2 mm
Perennial ryegrass

1 week later

Deeper, 10 mm

Shallow, 2 mm
Perennial ryegrass

6 weeks later

Deeper, 10 mm

Shallow, 2 mm
OTHER COMMENTS

• The farther north you are, the shorter your growing season and the cooler your climate
  • As such, Bermudagrass fraze mowing is more risky
  • Zoysiagrass is not a fan of aggressive fraze mowing

• Unanswered questions
  • Does annual fraze mowing decrease rhizome and stolon number/health needed for overwintering?
SEED BANK

• Known: Fraze mowing reduces weed seed in the soil
• Unknown: How much of the weed seed bank is removed by fraze mowing.

• Experiment: Soil cores from fraze mown plots in TN send to Purdue Univ. for germination tests.
  • Next slide: Preliminary data
Mean seed number in the top 2 inches of soil following 4 germination cycles as influenced by fraze mowing. SAG, summer annual grasses; ABG, annual bluegrass; SAB, summer annual broadleaves; WAB, winter annual broadleaves.
SUMMARY

• Fraze mowing reduces the weed seed bank, especially at the soil surface
  • We’re still learning more about this – we just started
  • This will be our best cultural strategy in the future for battling herbicide resistant weeds

• In cool season turf, fraze mowing is possible in KBG and PR.
  • Useful for leveling tees
  • Remember, Just because you can do something doesn’t mean that you should