

TURFGRASS ESTABLISHMENT AND LARGE CRABGRASS CONTROL USING CELLULOSIC SEED AND FERTILIZER BLANKETS. Brandon Drzewicki, Jan Michael, Donald Penner, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824.

The role of a cellulosic blanket containing (3-4-2, N-P-K) 20.4% turf-type tall fescue, and 1.1% Kentucky bluegrass, was evaluated for turfgrass establishment, effect on weed emergence, and on weed control with preemergence applications of siduron. The experiments were done in the greenhouse with 56 x 28 x 10 cm trays filled with loamy sand soil. Large crabgrass was seeded into the trays (500 seeds per tray). The cellulosic blankets were applied before or after application of siduron. Treatments in which the blanket was applied to the soil without an herbicide application delayed emergence of both the large crabgrass and broadleaf weeds. Siduron was effective whether applied before or after the blanket was placed on the soil. Turfgrass establishment was uniform and rapid.