



Timing of Proxy® Applications for *Poa Annua* Seedhead Control

Proxy (ethephon) is effective for controlling *Poa annua* seedheads when applied prior to the emergence of seedheads. Timing of the first application in spring is traditionally scheduled in a number of ways:

1. Apply when *Poa annua* seedheads are first detected in the boot stage, when a noticeable bulge can be detected at the base of the plant. *Poa annua* is highly variable depending on biotype and location, so superintendents should look for *Poa* in the boot stage on the south-facing slopes and other warm areas.
2. Apply at the first sign of forsythia bloom.
3. Apply when growing degree days base 50°F (GDD50) reach 50 with a February 1st start date; which is used in the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast.
4. Apply when GDD32 = 200-500, which seems to be more applicable for the Midwest and Northern U.S.

A Simpler Method for Application Timing

Three years of research indicate that Proxy applied in the fall, followed by two spring applications, improves overall seedhead control and consistency of control, compared to two spring applications. The improvement in seedhead control from the additional fall application also lasts throughout the seedhead production period in the spring. Timing of the fall application should be after the last mowing.

APPLICATION	TIMING	PRODUCT AND RATE/1,000 SQ FT
1	At or immediately after the final mowing in fall	Proxy 5.0 oz
2	Traditional spring timing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Poa</i> in the boot stage • First sign of forsythia bloom • GDD50=50 with a Feb. 1 start date. • GDD32=200-500 	Proxy 5.0 oz
3	3 - 4 weeks after initial spring application	Proxy 5.0 oz + Primo MAXX® 0.125 oz

Tank Mixes

Research indicates that applying products such as Signature™ XTRA Stressgard® or Fiata® Stressgard in the fall improve color and quality in early spring. Preliminary research also indicates that including Stressgard-containing products in spring applications may be as effective as Primo MAXX® in limiting yellowing that is sometimes observed when Proxy is applied alone.

Application Timing for Areas With Fall Seedheads and No Winter Snowcover

In certain valley and coastal regions in the Pacific Northwest, there is often a flush of seedheads in the fall. In these regions, golf course superintendents have had success applying Proxy in the late summer/early fall when daytime temperatures are consistently below 80°F. If phytotoxicity is a concern, consider/combining with Stressgard containing products like Fiata Stressgard, Signature XTRA Stressgard, or Interface® Stressgard depending on the area and if/what diseases are present.