

Better grass establishment

GRASS

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OBJECTIVE:

Assess the effect of mycorrhizal inoculation on grass establishment.

METHODS:

The trial was conducted on an existing lawn established on a poor loam soil a few years before. The lawn received no care but a periodical mowing. For this trial, reseeding was done with the following treatments: No inoculation or inoculation with the mycorrhizal fungus *Glomus intraradices* at two different rates, 50 or 150 mg of product /m². Half of the plots also received the organic fertilization with the “MYKE® 3 steps lawn organic fertilizer” applied at the recommended rate of 3,3 kg/100 m² and the other half got no fertilization. All treatments were arranged in a randomized complete block design with 8 replicates.

To determine the effect of the treatments, the presence and number of plants or the absence of plants was determined over the

season using a transect method. This count was done twice during the season, in June and in October 2005.

RESULTS:

The results show that although grass densities and bare spots were similar between the plots at the beginning of the experiment, in October, plots treated with the mycorrhizal inoculants had a significant reduction of bare spots compared to the control ($p=0,02$). At the rate 50 mg/m² there were 21% and 5% less bare spots respectively without and with fertilization while at the rate 150 mg, significant decreases of bare spots by 26% and 23% respectively were observed.

A 16% increase in grass density ($p=0,11$) occurred with the 150 mg rate, four months after seeding.

