

1996 VIGORO CONSUMER AND POLYMER COATED FERTILITY TRIAL ON TALL FESCUE

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Objectives:

To evaluate the performance and nitrogen release of consumer fertilizers and polymer coated fertilizers when applied to tall fescue, in terms of visual color ratings.

Cultivar:

Marathon III tall fescue.

Experimental Site:

A plot established at the UCR Turfgrass Field Research Center, Riverside, CA on April 3, 1996. The root zone is a native soil which is classified as a Hanford fine sandy loam; pH = 7.1; Olsen-P = 18 ppm; X-K = 75ppm as of July 1995.

Experimental Design:

Randomized Complete Block design with four replications. Plot size 4.5 x 6.0 ft.

Mowing:

Once per week with a rotary mower set at 2.0 inches. Clippings collected.

Irrigation:

Plots irrigated to prevent visual drought symptoms and overwatering.

Fertilizer Treatments:

- Consumer fertilizers (*one application*):
 - two granular treatments (32% N) at two rates (1.3 and 1.6 lb N/1000 ft²);
 - one liquid treatment (36% N) at two rates (0.45 and 1.3 lb N/1000 ft²).
 - [Liquid treatment: appropriate amount of product was dissolved in water such that 20 gallons finished volume was applied per 1000 ft² with a watering can.]
- Polymer coated fertilizers (*one application*):
 - five granular treatments: (three at 29% N, one at 30% N and PC-Ammonium Sulfate at 21% N;
 - all treatments applied at 1.5 N/1000 ft²).
- Check (no fertilizer)

Measurements:

Visual turfgrass color ratings taken every two weeks beginning two weeks after initial treatment applications, using a 1 to 9 scale (1=poorest, 5=acceptable, 9=best tall fescue).

1996 Vigoro Consumer Product Fertility Trial: Visual Color Ratings

Scale: 1-9 (9=greenest tall fescue)

Product	Rate (lb N/M)	08/16/96	08/28/96	09/13/96	09/25/96	10/11/96	10/25/96
A (32% N)	1.30	6.5	6.5	6.6	6.4	6.0	6.3
A (32% N)	1.60	6.5	6.6	6.9	6.5	6.4	6.6
B (32% N)	1.30	6.3	6.4	6.7	6.4	6.0	6.4
B (32% N)	1.60	6.6	6.3	6.8	6.4	5.9	6.5
Lawn Food (36% N)	0.45	6.1	6.3	6.3	6.2	5.8	6.3
Lawn Food (36% N)	1.30	6.5	6.6	6.8	6.4	5.9	6.3
Check	0.00	5.6	6.0	5.9	6.0	6.0	6.3
LSD P=0.05		0.4	0.2	0.3	0.3	NS	NS

1996 Vigoro Polymer Coated Fertility Trial: Visual Color Ratings

Scale: 1-9 (9=greenest tall fescue)

Product	Rate (lb N/M)	08/16/96	08/28/96	09/13/96	09/25/96	10/11/96	10/25/96
A (29% N)	1.50	6.4	6.4	6.8	6.3	6.1	6.3
B (29% N)	1.50	6.6	6.5	6.8	6.3	6.1	6.6
C (29% N)	1.50	6.2	6.4	6.6	6.4	6.1	6.2
D (30% N)	1.50	6.7	6.4	6.7	6.4	5.9	6.6
Ammonium Sulfate (36% N)	1.50	6.8	6.6	6.6	6.4	5.9	6.3
Check	1.50	5.6	6.0	5.9	6.0	6.0	6.3
LSD P=0.05		0.4	0.3	0.4	0.3	NS	NS