

TRANSITIONAL RYEGRASS TRIALS

David Nickson, together with the TGAA Victoria and the City of Dandenong, is in the process of conducting a 12 month trial of transitional ryegrasses in Melbourne.

Couch and kikuyu will be the base grasses as it is anticipated that there will be different results from each species.

Three or four transitional ryegrasses – a turf type perennial ryegrass selected from the recent AUSTEP trial, a semi-pasture type ryegrass and possibly an annual type ryegrass will constitute the treatments as

well as a non-overseeded control. Each plot measures 4x2m with four replicates set out on a randomised block design.

The plots were established at a time that gave the ryegrass a chance to establish before subjected to winter sport wear.

At the end of the winter sport season, Nickson will spray out half of each plot and monitor and measure the couch and kikuyu cover in each treatment and also record the time it takes for each treatment to reach 90-100 per cent cover from the warm-season grass.

The remaining overseeded areas will be monitored to determine if the transitional grasses thin out and, if so, by how much. During late summer it is envisaged the remainder of the plots will be sprayed and warm-season grass coverage recorded compared to the sections sprayed earlier and the control plot.

Nickson is also hoping to start a grass variety trial for racing in southern Victoria over the next couple of months. Nickson was also heavily involved in research with Phillip Ford into the use of entomopathogenic nematodes for the control of Winter Corby grubs and the VGA turf trials (See Ford's report on Page 10-11). 🌱

