BASF
We create chemistry

The public benefits from Seedhead Suppression

The public benefits include:

- Improved visibility
- Fewer distractions for motorists
- Reduced possibility of mowers throwing debris on the road or onto cars
- Less likelihood of accidents with animals or birds along roadways and/or runways

Mowing: Not Effective Management Solution

Mowing has been the most common method used to control difficult grasses, but it is expensive and often ineffective. In areas with high moisture and rich soil, smooth bromegrass grows rapidly, requiring repeated mowing within a single season.

At a time when many state and local governments are seeking to control their road maintenance costs, the high labor and equipment costs of repeated mowing often means one of two choices: either leaving potentially dangerous areas unmowed or removing resources from other road work in order to mow.

Bahiagrass

The Problem with Bahiagrass

Although bahiagrass is a desirable turfgrass, it has a prolific, summer long seedhead production. With a long growing season, the seedheads quickly grow to a height of 12 to 24 inches. Unrestricted, bahiagrass can cause safety problems on roadsides by reducing sight visibility and harboring wandering animals. At airports, bahiagrass can attract insects and give a haven to birds that can have a devastating impact to aircraft.

The Efficiency of Bahiagrass Seedhead Suppression

One timely application of 2 to 4 ounces of **Plateau® herbicide** can eliminate the need for repeated bahiagrass mowings. While the proper time of year for applying **Plateau herbicide** varies according to climate, the best rule of thumb for application is two to three weeks before bahiagrass seedhead emergence or within seven days following mowing.

In a study conducted by Dr. Fred Yelverton, associate professor and extension specialist at North Carolina State University, a solution of 4 ounces of the product per acre, plus an application of 4 ounces of Plateau per acre, plus a 0.25 percent nonionic surfactant (NIS), applied to bahiagrass, completely suppressed seedheads up to 14 weeks after treatment. In contrast, an equivalent stand of bahiagrass that was mowed produced an average of 20 seedheads per square foot 14 weeks after being mowed.

Another study was conducted in Nash County, North Carolina. **Plateau herbicide** applied at 2 ounces per acre + NIS 0.25 percent v/v provided 21 weeks of bahiagrass seedhead suppression. There were 101,640 seedheads per acre in the nontreated check, four weeks after treatment. These results (length of suppression) may vary as you go further south into the natural range of Pensacola bahiagrass.

Plateau® Herbicide
Overdrive® Herbicide

Tall Fescue

The Problem with Tall Fescue

Although tall fescue is desirable for many reasons, it grows quickly and produces tall seedheads. These two factors can lead to serious safety problems for the public if tall fescue is allowed to grow unchecked along roadsides or on runways.

Mowing: Ineffective Against Tall Fescue

Tall fescue foliage and seedheads grow rapidly. Consequently, mowing must be done frequently to keep the tall fescue at an acceptable height. However, the labor and equipment costs for mowing can be tremendous. In tall fescue, mower operators find it nearly impossible to see anything on the ground. If they hit something large, such as a discarded tire or a rock, the mower may be damaged, the operator can be injured or the object may be shot onto the road or at a passing car. Besides the safety issue, another concern with mowing is that it can harm wildlife. Because it is impossible to see what is on the ground, mowers can easily run over nesting birds and small animals.

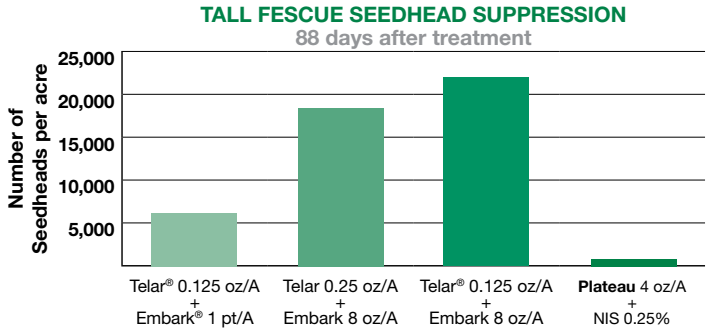
Easily Suppressing Tall Fescue Seedheads

One timely application of 2 to 4 ounces of **Plateau herbicide** can eliminate or drastically reduce the need for mowing tall fescue. Climate determines the precise time of year for applying **Plateau herbicide**, but the general rule for early spring application is two to three weeks before tall fescue seedheads emerge. Since the tall fescue foliage continues growing after seedhead emergence, additional herbicide use or mowing may be necessary to keep the tall fescue at an acceptable height.

Smooth Bromegrass

The Problem with Smooth Bromegrass

Although smooth bromegrass has several desirable qualities, it grows to 20 to 40 inches in height. If left unrestricted along road shoulders, medians and underneath guardrails, it can impair driver visibility and compromise roadway safety.



In a test conducted by Dr. Fred Yelverton, associate professor and extension specialist at North Carolina State University, a solution of 4 ounces of **Plateau**, plus a 0.25 percent nonionic surfactant (NIS), suppressed tall fescue seedhead production 88 days after treatment. **Note:** Application date 4/24/98, rating date 7/21/98, GPA 32.5

Suppressing Smooth Bromegrass Using Plateau

A single application of 4 to 8 ounces per acre of **Plateau herbicide**, plus a 0.25 percent nonionic surfactant (NIS), can eliminate or reduce the need to mow smooth bromegrass. It will also suppress undesired thistles, grasses and broadleaf weeds. **Plateau herbicide** should be applied in the spring, while the smooth bromegrass is actively growing, but before seedhead production begins. To enhance broadleaf control, **Plateau herbicide** may be combined with your preferred broadleaf herbicide. A great option for broadleaf control is **Overdrive® herbicide**, which can be tank mixed with **Plateau herbicide**. A higher rate of **Plateau herbicide** should be used on reed canarygrass and heavier soils; lower rates should be used on sandy soils and drier sites.

In a test plot of smooth bromegrass and reed canarygrass in Minnesota, **Plateau herbicide** applied at a rate of 6 ounces per acre plus NIS at 0.25 percent reduced seedheads by 95 percent and plant height by 50 percent after 77 days. BASF research conducted in Nebraska indicated that **Plateau herbicide** applied at 8 ounces per acre plus NIS at 0.25 percent reduced smooth bromegrass seedhead production by more than 95 percent for over four months after treatment. In a second test in Nebraska, **Plateau herbicide** cut seedhead production by more than 95 percent after 135 days.

An integrated vegetation management program is the most effective and efficient approach to making roadsides and airport runways safer and more aesthetically appealing. While vegetation provides a valuable protective barrier to prevent erosion along roadsides and runways, it must be managed to keep weeds under control.

These findings were the result of research conducted by: Fred Yelverton, Ph.D., associate professor and extension specialist, Department of Crop Science, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC.

Always read and follow label directions.

Plateau® Herbicide **Overdrive®** Herbicide