

Nature Safe[®] research

University research data

R-9

Color quality and clipping production

Test conducted by:
University of Illinois, Dr. D.J. Wehner

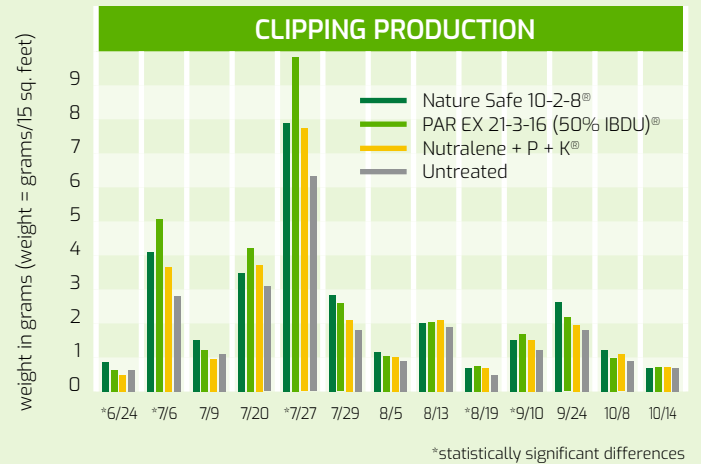
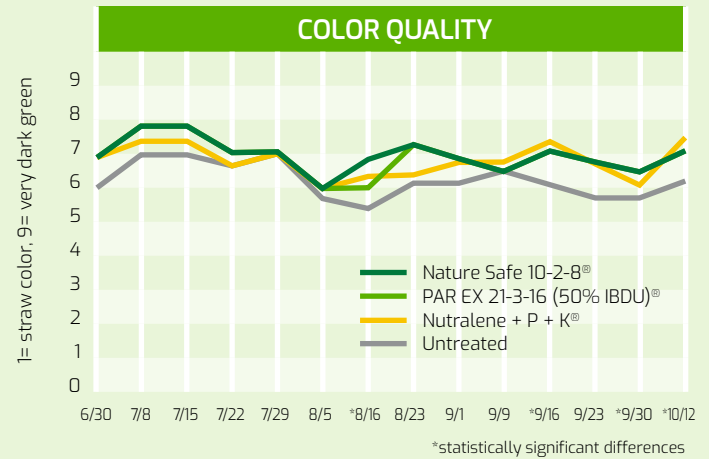
Introduction and procedures

All natural and organic fertilizers have proven to be effective slow-release products with characteristics similar to the premium slow-release urea fertilizers. This trial was designed to examine Nature Safe's effectiveness in comparison to two commonly used premium synthetic fertilizers. Penncross Creeping Bentgrass was treated with Nature Safe 10-2-8, Par Ex[®] 21-3-16 (50% IBDU), and Nutralene[®] (40-0-0 with P+K added to give a 4-1-2 ratio). Each material was applied at a 0.5 lb. actual N per 1000 sq. ft. per month. Treatments were made on 6/21, 7/21, 8/24 and 10/4. Plots were mowed twice per week with clippings collected from plots the second mowing. Dr. Wehner used a randomized complete block design with three replications.

Test results

Because of the very wet weather during the course of the growing season, differences between the untreated turf and turf receiving fertilizer were less than would normally be expected. This study was conducted on bentgrass growing on a good quality mineral soil rather than a sand based soil where differences due to absence of fertilization would be more severe. Significant differences in color were found on four of the fourteen rating dates. On these dates, the color rating for the untreated turf was significantly lower than the rating for the fertilized turf. Clipping yield differences in weight due to treatments were statistically significant on five of the thirteen collection dates.

Disease severity was also noted and then subsequently treated. There was a trend for dollar spot to be more severe during September on the untreated turf.



Conclusion

Nature Safe performed equally as well as the premium synthetic slow-release fertilizers.