Rye Overseeding
January 19

Question: Our lawn suffered terribly this summer from a variety of things that left many bare spots. We noticed that in our country club all the tee boxes this winter are overseeded with rye grass and they are beautiful. My husband had the idea that if we overseed with rye grass it might provide some green whilst the Floratam was filling in. Is this a possibility, or, in other words, what is wrong with this thought?
Rose Marie, South Fort Myers

Answer: Your analysis is correct. Overseeding with rye grass is an acceptable practice. The key is to ensure that the seeds touch ground. When this happens, new growth should be seen within a couple of weeks. The rye, being an annual, will persist into April and perhaps no longer. Rye seed is sold by the pound at many garden centers.

Stephen Brown is a horticulture agent with the Lee County Extension Service. Submit questions by calling the horticulture desk at 461-7504 between 9 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. or by e-mailing brownsh@leegov.com. Visit his web page at http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/hort/GardenHome.shtml “Garden Doctor” video clips http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/Hort/Video.shtml and flowering trees information at http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/Hort/GardenPubsA_Z.shtml