"We have 1500 cubic metres storage across the site held in three separate tanks, which is barely one day's water for the courses in dry periods because we are able to water wall to wall. We needed something big enough to take the seasonality out of filling and watering and through meticulous planning and design came up with a plan for a tank holding 105,000 cubic metres’ capacity – in other words, a reservoir.”

We then join John’s springer spaniel Hesper to see the reservoir construction at first hand. It’s staggering to see the massive scale of this and it’s fascinating to see teams of archaeologists excavating what will soon become a water storage facility capable of holding so much of the stuff. The archaeologists have even located several ancient Roman kilns, (a type of oven for metal work) which need to be painstakingly removed.

To the right of the five hectare site are huge mounds of earth removed, probably 25 feet high showing the extent of the project so far – and the excavators are yet to move in! The reservoir is due to be completed in time for the 2013 season.

All in all, it’s a vast project and John acknowledges an undertaking of this scale is only possible at a large club with significant financial backing and a supportive and knowledgeable owner. However, he’s also eager to stress that a progressive long-term water management strategy is critical and achievable, at any golf club as water bills inevitably climb.

He says: “A smaller model could be adopted in a different location. The bottom line is, we aim to get our water bill down to roughly £25,000 a year. This year, following many mitigation measures we still spent £125,000 so the return on our investment will be within six or seven years.

“When I pulled into Woburn’s car park earlier, I vowed to leave with a much greater understanding of the water resource project, increased knowledge of the water-based challenges facing golf clubs and to refrain from mentioning Ian Poulter at any point in the subsequent article. Ah well, two out of three ain’t bad.

“Individual Head Greenkeepers and I have had to be extremely diligent and flexible in managing the consumption for three championship courses, using 500m3 across all three courses each night. We water the course in the best interests of the turf, because we’ve eliminated the billing issues.

“We’ve learned a lot along the way about how best to manage this precious asset and I’m sure we’ll need to continue using these principles as our climate continues to change. “This project would not have got off the ground without the support of our consultants WRA, Paul Williams from the Bedford Estates and of course from the Duke of Bedford and the Woburn Board of Trustees.”

The Club, which is part of the Bedford Estates, aerate monthly with light top dressing and annual hollow coring each August to keep them dry. They survey into the night under lights and close each of the courses a week in every month of the winter for drainage, aeration and bunker reconstruction. As John says “The healthier the greens are, the harder we can push them.”

When I pulled into Woburn’s car park earlier, I vowed to leave with a much greater understanding of the water resource project, increased knowledge of the water-based challenges facing golf clubs and to refrain from mentioning Ian Poulter at any point in the subsequent article. Ah well, two out of three ain’t bad.
Winter course management Q&A

As the UK shivers through another cold snap, Jim Cook finds out what plans greenkeepers have been putting in place for the winter months.

Andrew Geddes – Clitheroe GC

1 What kind of projects do you tackle during winter months?
Fairway drainage, levelling and improving tee surfaces, bunker renovations, improving walkways, woodland management and dealing with e-mails from members.

2 If a winter project will be disruptive to play, how do you manage this?
Before any work starts it will be advertised on notice boards and also the club’s website. Because the bulk of our work is bunker related at the moment we use drop zones on any bunkers that are GOR in speed up play and stop any confusion.

3 When would you bring in contractors to undertake winter projects?
Ground conditions at Clitheroe aren’t suitable for contractors in the winter, although we have used Duncan Ross to install drains in the summer.

4 Are there ways to minimise a winter project being affected by the weather?
We try to plan work for the relatively better weather periods and do not work in the winter rains. We also try to plan work in the summer to make the best of the good weather. We would normally leave aeration work for wetter days so that at least the operator is inside a tractor cab.

5 If there is pressure to complete a project before spring, how do you deal with this?
Contractors would be used for three main reasons – if specialist equipment is required, if specialist skills are required and if a project has to be completed within a limited timescale. An honest assessment has to be made by the club before pressure is put on to do the work in house.

Robert Ransome – Diss GC

1 What kind of projects do you tackle during the winter months?
Mostly bunker rebuilding work; we are currently installing EnviroBunker using BindCDC which will take about three weeks to complete the whole course. We’ll also be resurfacing and building several tees and managing greens on the golf course.

2 If a winter project will be disruptive to play, how do you manage this?
We’re lucky to have a good selection of equipment to enable us to carry our everything in house. I’m also very lucky to have a good team of greenkeepers to work alongside who are able to facilitate the work.

3 When would you bring in contractors to undertake winter projects?
We’ve had to get used to working around the contractors we use are annual hours or increasing our membership will be aware of the conditions to expect.

4 Are there ways to minimise a winter project being affected by the weather?
We always try and inform our membership of the conditions to expect. A monthly greens report posted in the newsletter and newsletters and in most of our construction projects we also provide pictures of what these areas will look like once completed.

5 If there is pressure to complete a project before spring, how do you deal with this?
We try to plan work for the relatively better weather periods and do not work in the winter rains. We also try to plan work in the summer to make the best of the good weather. We would normally leave aeration work for wetter days so that at least the operator is inside a tractor cab.

Gordon Brammah – Hallamshire GC

1 What kind of projects do you tackle during winter months?
Many and varied depending on a number of factors including course development policies, budget restrictions, available equipment and the weather. We have built new tees, putting greens and stone walls, installed drainage systems and improved paths, and every bunker on the course has been rebuilt.

2 If a winter project will be disruptive to play, how do you manage this?
Communication. Members are more likely to complain about disruption if they are not kept informed about work on the course. A monthly greens report posted in the clubhouse or better still on the club’s website will head off many awkward questions later on.

3 When would you bring in contractors to undertake winter projects?
Contractors would be used for three main reasons – if specialist equipment is required, if specialist skills are required and if a project has to be completed within a limited timescale. An honest assessment has to be made by the club before pressure is put on to do the work in house.

4 Are there ways to minimise a winter project being affected by the weather?
Planning is the key. Getting major projects completed early in the autumn/winter before the weather closes in will give more time for the course to recover. Have contingency plans for if the weather causes serious delay and don’t be overambitious with the number and scale of projects planned.

5 If there is pressure to complete a project before spring, how do you deal with this?
Developing a good relationship with the members and the greens committee is essential. Course managers should resist putting on projects that are not properly planned and funded and they must fit into a realistic winter programme.

Robert Patterson – Royal Aberdeen GC

1 What kind of projects do you tackle during winter months?
Hunkers work, rebuilding and extending tee areas, and an intensive aeration programme on all areas with vertidrains and hollow coring machines. We started a five-year plan last year to rebuild seven greens on the main links in, to prepare the very old turf for new material. We are doing the 18th green at the moment.

2 If a winter project will be disruptive to play, how do you manage this?
All our work plans are discussed at committee level three to five months prior to being done. The information is then fed to the membership through the notice board, website and newsletter. If temporary greens are proposed we will advise the members and the membership will be aware of the conditions to expect.

3 When would you bring in contractors to undertake winter projects?
Normally we would do all our work in house but we are using contractors to re-build our greens as they have the proper equipment and expertise to do the work alongside the architect employed by the club. Any large drainage work would also be sub-contracted to someone in that field.

4 Are there ways to minimise a winter project being affected by the weather?
To a point, normally the weather dictates how much you can achieve. We always try and get the bulk of our winter work done before Christmas. We start projects early in October to make the best of the good weather. We would normally leave aeration work for wetter days so that at least the operator is inside a tractor cab.

5 If there is pressure to complete a project before spring, how do you deal with this?
Get it done early. We need to have these greens we are rebuilding back in play by April so we have completed the work by the end of the summer. Planning and communication is very important so that everybody concerned knows what is required of them in the coming weeks and months.
Winter course management Q&A

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2 If a winter project will be disruptive to play, how do you manage this?
We discuss the programme of work six months in advance with the appropriate committee, and produce a monthly course report informing members of the winter projects. Depending on the size of the project, holes may be closed down or shortened.

3 When would you bring in contractors to undertake winter projects?
Ground conditions at Clitheroe aren't suitable for projects planned and funded and they must fit into a realistic contingency plans for if the weather causes serious delay in will give more time for the course to recover. Have a honest assessment has to be made by the club before pressure is put on to do the work in house.

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5 If there is pressure to complete a project before spring, how do you deal with this?
We tend to just prioritise and anything that can be carried over into the following autumn/winter season will be. I'm lucky the club has a good selection of equipment to enable us to carry our everything in house, and don't be over ambitious with the number and scale of projects planned.

Robert Ransome – Diss GC

1 What kind of projects do you tackle during the winter months?
Bunker work, rebuilding and extending teeing areas, and an intensive aeration programme on all areas with vertidrains and hollow core machines. We started a five year plan last year to rebuild seven greens on the main links, to improve the very poor root zone material. We are doing the 18th green at the moment.

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To a point, normally the weather dictates how much you can achieve. We always try and get the bulk of our winter work done before Christmas. We start projects early in October to make the best of the good weather. We would normally have our aeration machine for winter days so that at least the operator is inside a tractor cab.

5 If there is pressure to complete a project before spring how do you deal with this?
I dedicate two or three members of the team to daily course preparation. When monitoring progress, if we come under pressure to complete I have the options of asking for additional hours or increasing our staff numbers. This may come at a temporary cost to the course.

Andrew Mannion – Southerndown GC

1 What kind of projects do you tackle during the winter months?
Mostly bunker rebuilding work; we are currently installing Ezevirodrain using old Amourat which we are impressed with. We’ll also be removing and building several tees and managing gorse on the golf course.

2 If a winter project will be disruptive to play, how do you manage this?
Before any work starts it will be advertised on notice boards and also the club’s website. Because the bulk of our work is bunker related at the moment we use drop zones on any bunkers that are GOR to speed up play and stop any confusion.

3 When would you bring in contractors to undertake winter projects?
We're lucky to have a good selection of equipment to enable us to carry our everything in house. I’m also very lucky to have a good team of greenskeepers to work alongside who are able to facilitate the work.

4 Are there ways to minimise a winter project being affected by the weather?
Yes, provide discreet hard standing access areas to the parts of the course where the winter project is taking place, also use boards and guarders for shorter runs. Try to leave a few square metres of bare ground.

5 If it’s necessary to complete a project before spring how do you deal with this?
We focus on finishing our major ground work before Christmas, small projects and woodland management commence in the New Year.

Gordon Brammah – Hallamshire GC

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Contractors would be used for three main reasons – if specialist equipment is required, if specialist skills are required and if a project has to be completed within a limited timescale. An honest assessment has to be made by the club before pressure is put on to do the work in house.

4 Are there ways to minimise a winter project being affected by the weather?
Although we make every effort to keep everything is done to minimise time and disruption to play. We communicate to our members via notice boards, emails and newsletters and in most of our construction projects we also provide pictures of what these areas will look like once completed.

5 When would you bring in contractors to undertake winter projects?
Although we make every effort to keep as much project work in house, plant machinery, irrigation installation and tree planting contractors are brought in. The expertise, knowledge and experience that comes with the contractors we use are invaluable.

Robert Patterson – Royal Aberdeen GC

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4 Are there ways to minimise a winter project being affected by the weather?
To a point, normally the weather dictates how much you can achieve. We always try and get the bulk of our winter work done before Christmas. We start projects early in October to make the best of the good weather. We would normally have our aeration machine for winter days so that at least the operator is inside a tractor cab.

5 If there is pressure to complete a project before spring how do you deal with this?
For the last 3-4 years we’ve balanced our winter programmes to give us out our winter programmes to give us options, so if projects get put on hold, we can temporarily switch over to another until we can reschedule. Generally, a project is safe and ground disruption is minimised we’ll stick with it.
It’s snow joke as winter bites

We chat to a technical expert to find out how to prevent turf diseases as the snow falls

With a hard winter forecast for this year, the chance of snow cover is a strong possibility. Greenkeepers are reminded not to underestimate the risk of Typhula incarnata to cause Grey snow mould or Fusarium patch (Microdochium nivale) developing into Pink snow mould, should greens be subject to snow.

Dorin Pop, Technical Manager at Bayer, explains that snow cover prevents photosynthesis, reducing the plant metabolism which weakens the turf’s natural defence system.

“Snow cover also encourages contact with the snow mould pathogens. Pink snow mould may occur following growth of Fusarium patch from the organic matter in condutive conditions.”

He adds: “The snow also incubates the turf to an extent. This creates a microclimate which will keep the turf surface moist and unfrozen providing an ideal habitat for disease to thrive.

“The two diseases most commonly associated with the winter months are Grey snow mould and Pink snow mould.”

Both Grey snow mould and Pink snow mould require periods of cold, wet weather to develop, but Grey snow mould is very localised in the UK. This is because the turf needs to have prolonged snow cover in order for the disease pathogens to develop. For this reason it tends to occur in Scotland and the north of England.”

He adds that Pink snow mould is actually the same strain of Fusarium patch that normally occurs during the year when the conditions are favourable but as the snow melts, white to pink mycelium develops around the margin of patches. Unlike Grey snow mould, this can occur quite quickly under the snow as the pathogens take less time to develop.

“The disease pathogens can survive adverse conditions in plants or organic matter but the disease symptoms are only observed in the winter and early spring encouraged by low temperatures, high moisture in the turf, long grass, excessive nitrogen and excessive topping dressing just prior to snow cover.”

“Just like controlling Fusarium patch at any other time of the year, applying a fungicide at the very early stage of disease will avoid any potential scarring of the turf. This is especially important in the winter due to the slow rate of turf growth. Any scarring will take much longer to repair in the colder months and with the expectation now to be able to play golf all year round, prolonged periods of unplayable turf conditions are unlikely to be met favourably.”

During the autumn, golf courses tend to undergo renovation. The activities associated with renovation put a great deal of stress on the turf. Dorin explains that good practice is to maximise their maintenance programme prior to this period. Activities include applying the correct fertiliser, avoiding heavy top dressing, removing any fallen leaves in the autumn and adjusting the height of cut as well as reviewing the sward composition.

Dorin adds that the fundamentals for preventing winter turf disease lie in maintaining good practices throughout the year. “If due diligence is paid to cultural practices throughout the autumn, alongside a robust fungicide programme, greenkeepers will really help safeguard their turf throughout the winter.”

“As well as delivering appropriate cultural practices in the run up to the cold weather, Dorin advises greenkeepers to apply the fungicides pre-emptively before the first snow when the ground is not frozen. ‘Providing the label instructions are adhered to, this treatment should protect the turf while the snow is lying on top.’

However, he notes that if a greenkeeper does experience a situation where snow has fallen on an unprotected green, a contact fungicide can be applied just after snow melt, directly to where the disease is occurring. “This is often counterproductive because although the disease is restrained, as the weather begins to warm up and the grass begins to grow again.”

Although there may be a temptation to remove the snow from the greens, doing so will inflict added stress and damage to the turf beneath and should be avoided. “Walking on the greens when there is heavy snow or frost cover is also not recommended due to compaction.”

Dorin adds that frost presents an entirely different challenge to the turf. “Frost actually halts the development of disease pathogens, so in that respect it actually works in a greenkeeper’s favour. However it is often counterproductive because although the disease is restrained, it is essentially dormant. In the meantime, the frost significantly weakens mainly Poa awards, therefore making it more susceptible to the disease pathogens that are still there and that become active once the conditions become favourable.”

“Greenkeepers will face much less of a challenge if they adopt a preventative approach to combating disease.”

“When Bayer’s Chipco® Green and Dedicate® have curative properties, the fact that snow could remain on the ground for long periods of time preventing greenkeepers from getting to the turf could have damaging results.”

“By the time it melts, the damage could be quite significant and during a period of slow growth, its repair could be long and difficult. In this instance, prevention is certainly the best approach.”

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“Above: examples of Pink patch
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Dorin Pop, Technical Manager at Bayer, explains that snow cover prevents photosynthesis, reducing the plant metabolism which weakens the turf’s natural defence system.

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As well as delivering appropriate cultural practices in the run up to the cold weather, Dorin advises greenkeepers to apply the fungicides preventatively before the first snow when the ground is not frozen. “Providing the label instructions are adhered to, this treatment should protect the turf while the snow is lying on top.”

However, he notes that if a greenkeeper does experience a situation where snow has fallen on an unprotected green, a contact fungicide can be applied just after snow melt, directly to where the disease symptoms are visible. “Providing the snow hasn’t been lying too long and the disease isn’t too advanced, this should help prevent any further development.”

When considering appropriate products to use in these situations, he explains that Bayer’s product Dedicate® has both a contact and systemic mode of action which offers long-term preventative and early curative control of turf disease.

“I’d recommend that Dedicate® should be used up until the stage when the temperature drops significantly and the turf ceases to grow. After that, once the soil temperature drops, I’d suggest using Chipco® Green. It’s a contact fungicide which will remain effective following snow melt and will offer a good level of protection throughout the snow cover.”

He adds that if there is sign of disease after the snow has thawed, then an immediate application of Chipco® Green is recommended. Dedicate® can then be used once the weather begins to warm up and the grass begins to grow again.”

Although there may be a temptation to remove the snow from the greens, doing so will inflict added stress and damage to the turf beneath and should be avoided. Walking on the greens when there is heavy snow or frost cover is also not recommended due to compaction.

Dorin adds that frost presents an entirely different challenge to the turf. “Frost actually halts the development of disease pathogens, so in that respect it actually works in a greenkeeper’s favour. However it is often counterproductive because although the disease is restrained, the weather begins to warm up and the grass begins to grow again.”

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“Above: Examples of pink patch.
Future shock?

James de Haviland urges you to keep up to date with developments in the machinery world.

Take a look back over the past 10, 15 or even 20 years and it is clear that whilst some equipment has just got larger and more sophisticated, other items of kit have helped introduce new techniques such as precision overseeding and precise aeration. But what is the next big thing you should be aware of?

At present, the market for totally autonomous mowers is still in its infancy with models, such as the Etesia Robot, having won favour with those seeking a straightforward maintenance mowing system. But the Etesia can be set up to collect golf balls as it mows and only cut grass where it is needed. It’s fitted with five discs running at 3,500rpm. The unit is designed to leave a clean finish over frequently mown turf. Height of cut can be adjusted to between 22mm to 88mm. Workrate is put at 3,600 m²/hr, one machine having the potential to keep up to 20,000 m² under control. The unit only moves grass that needs cutting, working at random and returning to a fixed charge point when it runs low on power.

Twenty years ago, a self-propelled fairway mower was seen as something only well-off golf clubs could afford. For some, even a powered hydraulic gang was considered something of a fairway mowing luxury, drug gang sets earning their stripes on many a fairway well into the nineties and beyond. These days, trailed gangs still have a place but ride-on fairway mowers dominate, their cost to performance ratio making them ‘affordable’ for even less well-off courses.

Other items of kit that have become ‘mainstream’ include aerators. Again, some may get the forks out to aerate a green but not many. And by aeration it is also worth remembering that hollow coring, deep aeration and the manner in which wide area aeration to include fairways can now be carried out is something a previous generation of greenkeepers would wonder at.

So, what is the big news in machinery development these days? That is not an easy question to answer. As an industry, the golf sector saw great expansion from the 1980s and with it the levels of mechanisation rapidly increased. The last three decades have really seen some new ideas make their mark. Now, however, it could be argued that product development has perhaps overtaken innovation. If you could drive a 1990s-era fairway or greens mower alongside a 2012 model you would appreciate that development is every bit as important as innovation.

For some this may be seen as an opportunity to suggest you can quietly overlook machinery developments and concentrate upon other aspects of course maintenance. This is to overlook those developments happening all the time. Some are not going to make a revolutionary change to the way
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a course is tended, but they could help save some time or do a job more efficiently.

The key is to keep an eye out for changes, be prepared to try new equipment and not shy away from demonstrations. A good example is to consider a hybrid mower or one with full battery power. Think gang mowers versus ride-on and petrol versus diesel fueling.

In ten years time, will you wonder why you had not given electrical power a go earlier? You can’t take your eye off the ball.

With a 49hp engine and five gangs, the Toro Reelmaster 7000-D is right at the heavy end of fairway mowers, with the capacity to cope with fast growing grass in a season typified by 2012. It offers a 3.07m width of cut and can be set to mow between 6.35mm to 63.5mm. Of course this model is not for everyone but never has there been so much choice. Unless you look you may miss out on a model that is best suited to your specific needs.

Now consider a mainstream model, the John Deere 8500E E-Cut Hybrid mower followed by the 2500E greens mower to the UK market, the former first being launched back in 2005. Although this type of mower is not fully electric, hybrids have done a lot to help the all-electric cause, the motors powering the cutting units having proven dependable and efficient.

The Jacobsen Eclipse 322 in its all-electric guise was first seen in 2009, this mower doing away with not just an internal combustion engine but hydraulics too.

Plug in mowing may take a while to become mainstream but few can argue against the appeal of the technology. It has variable mowing speeds to a maximum of 9 km/h and transport speeds up to 14.5km/h. The all-important frequency of cut or clip rate can be adjusted from 1.27mm to 6.35mm for the 11-blade cylinder and 2.03mm to 9.91mm for the 7-cylinder option.

Utility vehicles have long had the option of electric power, but those looking for a general purpose unit that is at home in easy going as it is coping with tough terrain may prefer a petrol or diesel engine. The Cushman Hauler 1200X electric model could change that with its 450kg capacity and power to cope with steep going. Payload is a generous 450kg and maximum speed will be around 25km/h.

Do you know what has changed in the utility vehicle market? Have you tried an e-Gator from John Deere or Toro MDX with battery power?

Turning to another category we have the Baroness mowers, such as the LM283, have no electronics and employ simple levers to raise and lower the units. Options run to 5, 7 or 9 blades and collectors. No groomers or brushes, just easy to adjust and well made cutting units. Its straightforward hydraulics and simple all-wheel traction, but do not confuse this with poor mowing ability. The units are precision items.

So the question remains - do you know just how much equipment choice you have these days?
"In ten years time, will you wonder why you had not given electrical power a go earlier? You can’t take your eye off the ball!"

a course is tended, but they could help save some time or do a job more efficiently.

The key is to keep an eye out for changes, be prepared to try new equipment and not shy away from demonstrations. A good example is to consider a hybrid mower or one with full battery power. Think gang mowers versus ride-on and petrol versus diesel fueling.

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weeds are plants in the wrong place and all broad-leaved plants are weeds in managed turf. Rough grasses such as (Yorkshire fog) and Anthoxanthum odoratum (sweet vernal grass) and even perennial ryegrass (Lolium perenne), the latter widely used in amenity and non-fine sports turf, are weeds in professional sports turf.

Managers wanting greens dedicated to fine turf grasses like bents (Agrostis spp) and fescues (Festuca spp) regard Poa annua as a weed, ‘cut and dried’. Others happily tolerate and use Poa on golf greens and tees.

Weeds may have completely different growth habits outside of managed turf. Creeping buttercup (Ranunculus repens) hugs the ground, its runners slipping unobtrusively through turf, while plants may reach 40cm or higher in uncut grass. Bird’s foot trefoil’s (Lotus corniculatus) behaves in the same way with creeping stems becoming vining stems and using long grass stems for support.

Deciding which plants are weeds is the easy part - identifying them is the harder part. Grouping plants, whether by weed characteristics or plant family, is the easiest way to proceed. Sorting out the Asteraceae (e.g. dandelions and daisies), Fabaceae (clovers), Ranunculaceae (buttercups), Rosaceae (cinquefoils) and Plantaginaceae (plantains) takes around half of turf weeds out of the identification equation.

That done you are left with small distinct groups and individuals such as the plantains, slender speedwell, self-heal, mouse-eared chickweed, sorrel, parsley piet, dove’s-foot cranesbill, and field woodrush (main image) to identify and deal with.

Common weed characteristics

Turf weeds have one or more characters in common:

- Ground hugging habit with growing points close to the soil surface to escape the mower’s blades
- Rosette arrangement of leaves and/or mat growth habits blocking light and shade out grasses
- Underground food storage organs like tap roots for anchorage and survival under adverse conditions. Ability to grow new plants from pieces of tap root left in the ground after unsuccessful attempts at physical removal
- Efficient vegetative reproduction by stolons (creeping stems) that ‘slip’ through the turf rooting as they grow to make new plants. Ability to grow new plants from stem pieces detached during mowing
- Choreographed sexual reproduction with flower heads at ground level, a long flowering period sometimes throughout the year (ephemerals). Short seed maturation period, efficient seed dispersal, no special seed germination requirements and accumulation of large seed banks outside of turf
- Resistance to drought and tolerance of herbicides

Weeds in managed turf

Dandelions and lookalikes (Asteraceae)
A common characteristic of the Asteraceae is composite flower heads of many individual flowers called florets. Dandelion (Taraxacum officinale) and daisy (Bellis perennis) are the most well-known of this plant family.

Dandelion’s success is down to a strong deep seated tap root and a rosette of large light blocking leaves. Dandelions flower through spring and summer to generate large seed banks outside turf. Prostrate biotypes growing in fine turf bear short-stalked flowers which escape mowing.

As summer turf dries out dandelions are matched by weeds which closely resemble dandelions and have the same weed credentials. Most common is cat’s ear (Hypochaeris radicata) with rosettes of leaves close to the ground and long feathery tap roots with similar capacities for regeneration following unsuccessful attempts to dig them out. Prolific seed set and efficient