



The sedges seem to be the #1 weed control problem today.

Weed Control

Preemergent & Post Emergent Programs

Some very obvious themes and trends emerged from the contributions of our peers on this topic. Wall-to-wall treatments of herbicides are declining in frequency in response to environmental stewardship initiatives. "Spot treatment" is the new wave. It is environmentally sound and cost effective. Planning, timing, and mapping reduce the number of applications needed to eliminate a problem. Manual removal of weeds is making a comeback. Healthy turf is still the best deterrent to weed encroachment. It seems sedge has replaced goosegrass as the #1 weed problem. And last but not least - Mother Nature still rules! – *Joel Jackson, CGCS*

Staying on Schedule is a Must!

Thirty holes at Grand Cypress Golf Club are overseeded wall to wall. We used to apply 1/2 rates (two applications about ten days apart) of Ronstar in late February to control primarily goose grass in the early summer. We never thought we had much of a problem, so we decided to try a year without any preemergent type herbicides. The experiment worked for us and now we are on a weekly spot treatment post-emergence program only

(after the ryegrass has transitioned).

Our weekly rotation includes MSMA, 2+2, Basagran, Image and Illoxan. Illoxan is the main reason why we no longer worry about goose grass. By staying on a rigid schedule, weeds may appear, but we get them when they are extremely young, so most of our guests do not see them.

In mid-April we apply 1/4 ounce of Simazine per 1,000 square feet over our ryegrass on roughs, fairways and bunker faces. At the 1/4 ounce rate, we will eliminate our overseeding in two to four weeks, depending mostly on temperatures.

Higher rates of Simazine will take the grass out faster. We like the slow transition so again our guests do not see it happening.

In the early summer, we will pre-emerge along the base of our grassy mounds. The mounds generate most of our problems and the pre-emerge along them helps keep us clean. Surflan and Barricade are the two products we have used in these areas.

Lastly on the overseeded courses, we have to stop all herbicide applications at a minimum of 30 days in advance of our

overseeding. Many of the post emergence herbicides will have preemergence effects on the ryegrass if applied too close to overseeding.

Prior to Christmas we will apply Kerb in all other bermuda grass areas at 2 pounds per acre. This will get any poa annua that has emerged, as well as hold back any that is coming. This will keep us very clean through February.

We will pre-emerge all bunker faces in October/November for winter annuals. We use a Gallery/Surflan combination for this and it will help keep us clean through spring.

The bermuda grass fairways on the New Course are spot treated with post emergence products just like the others in the summer. It is good for the environment (less chemical) and good for our budget. Again, weekly applications are a must to keep the populations to a minimum.

These are our simple programs at Grand Cypress Golf Club. We have been lucky to start clean and keep clean. I think this is why we get away with limited preemergence programs.

Tom Alex

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How Weeds Gain a Foothold

Emerald Dunes is surrounded by open fields of disturbed soil that provide a constant source of potential weed contamination to the golf turf. Seed is carried by wind, carts and water across virtually the entire playing surface. A dense stand of turfgrass, healthy enough to resist weed intrusion, is our goal. Unfortunately factors such as poor environmental conditions, compaction, renovation procedures, insect or disease pressure, and inefficient irrigation often cause turf to thin, allowing seed to soil contact. Usually the weed seed germinates unhindered or even encouraged by the very conditions that slow the growth of the turf. As with any "pest," the weed is only a symptom, and we make every effort to



Weak or disturbed turf creates a niche for weeds to sprout.

identify and correct the underlying problem that encourages its establishment.

The next line of defense for us is the use of preemergent herbicides. This year we applied fertilizer with Ronstar to all areas except greens in the spring, and fertilizer with Surflan in the fall and winter. The Surflan is not applied to tee or green slopes to avoid effecting our overseed, and these areas are carefully sprayed with Barricade.

As to the use of post-emergent herbicides, we first try to positively identify the weed, then use the IFAS Florida Weed Control Guide to select our treatment procedures. The book *Weeds of Southern Turfgrasses*, published by the Florida Cooperative Extension Service IFAS, has been a great help to us in weed identification.

We find our biggest failure in post-emergent weed control to be missed or improperly timed follow up applications. This was a problem this year because of the numerous rain days that made spraying impossible. We hope next year to time our post-emergent applications to better avoid months of high rain probability. The single most persistent weed for us this year was Alexander grass. We originally treated it like crabgrass and had little or no success and found that is not listed on any selective herbicide labels. It was brought to our attention that some successful control had been

achieved using Trimec Plus and we found this very effective when applied with a silicon surfactant and iron sulphate.

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A Weed is a Weed — or is it?

The American Heritage Dictionary defines a "weed" as a plant considered undesirable, unattractive, or troublesome, especially one growing where it is not wanted, as in a garden. This highlights the fact that even the finest most stress-resistant Tifdwarf bermudagrass could be considered a weed. The inverse of this statement is that a plant cannot always be considered a weed.

The Fort Myers Country Club was built in 1917. The fairway turf is a combination of common bermudagrass and other stuff. Many of the fairways are lined with huge eucalyptus trees and have extensive areas of heavy shade.

When I started working for the City of Fort Myers in the spring of 1991, I saw many things that I thought I could improve. Near the top of this list was the removal of all of that obnoxious *Poa annua*. What an ugly mess! I knew that