

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*

Grand Cypress Club  
Orlando, Fla.

## 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.

*Chip Fowkes*

Emerald Dunes C.C.  
West Palm Beach, Fla.

## 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



my efforts to remove that universally accepted weed would be applauded.

I was still riding high the following fall when I applied my pre-emerge herbicide. I could still clearly envision all of those ugly white seedheads blowing in the breeze. Wow! I was going to make the place even better for the heavy winter play. As the year progressed and the holidays came and went, it became clear I had been successful. I had eliminated the vast majority of those obnoxious weed patches.

A funny thing happened to me on the way to the turfgrass Hall of Fame. At the end of December, I realized that the heavily shaded areas were getting a little thin. After another 8,000 rounds for the month of January, thin would have been very acceptable to me. A more accurate description would have been simply "dirt." It had sure been a quick change from riding high to laying low. The members were all quite concerned. There had never been a problem with grass in these areas. That new Greenskeeper had sure screwed it up.

Rest assured the next winter I did not cringe when I saw those white seedheads blowing in the breeze. I had learned an important lesson — a weed is not always a weed.

*Mike Mongoven, CGCS  
Fort Myers C.C.  
Fort Myers, Fla.*

## Mapping Pays Off!

Here at Lake Region we only use pre-emergents in two different applications. We primarily use them for our winter weed program mainly for control of *Poa annua*.

We will come in with Surflan at a full rate and will do the golf course wall to wall. We begin this application in the middle of October and try to have it done by the end of the month. We ring all tee and green surfaces first and then proceed to finish the rest of the golf course from there.

We will come back in February and March and begin post treatments from there for any secondary rye or *Poa*. We



*This goosegrass plant needs pulling — not spraying.*

are still trying to find the best product for that application but have tried many other avenues. I have used Sencor in some fairway areas at that time with some degree of success. Of course, I think everyone has their own ideas on post treatments. This basically is our strategy for the winter months.

As for the spring and into the summer we will map hot spots mainly for goose grass and will spot treat these areas. This is a very limited application due to years of keeping up with the problem of goose grass.

We seem to be able to keep goose down to a very minimal issue due to products like Illoxan that do such a good job with a post treatment. Also with some of the environmental issues about pre-emergents staying the soil longer we do try to keep their use down to the most extreme limits as possible.

Here at Lake Region if we can survive without them we definitely try to. We are very involved with the concerns of the environmental issues ahead of us and are a Registered Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary. We try to keep all our chemical uses to the most minimal use as possible.

*Alan Puckett, CGCS  
Lake Region Y. & C.C.  
Winter Haven, Fla.*

## Weed Control with a Real 'Hands On' Approach

At Collier's Reserve, nearly all of our weed control is done by hand and it has been that way since grow-in started. Occasionally, we spray yellow nut sedge that has emerged since grow-in. There are two situations that require manual weed control programs. First is grow-in; manual weed removal gives you control over the weed population from the beginning. The second situation is an established golf course with a substantial weed population.

### Weed Control During Grow-In

Prior to sprigging, at the Reserve, soil samples were taken to help us determine the proper fertility levels needed for grow-in. This was important to us because we needed all the necessary elements in our fertilizer blends to complete a healthy, rapid grow-in. One of the best natural weed control programs is a tight, healthy turf.

We waited three weeks after sprigging to begin our manual weed control program. We would have, as our Golf Course Manager Tim Hiers would call, "tiger hunts." A "tiger hunt" consists of up to four men, starting at the tee and working