

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