Lack of proper coverage, insufficient amounts of 2,4-D, slow growth due to dry weather and rainfall immediately following application seem to be the most probable reasons for these less favorable results.

Greenkeepers should not give up on any difficult-to-kill weed species until they have tried repeat applications after new growth appears. It is also worthwhile to try an ester composition of 2,4-D on such plants. This formulation is now available for use in controlling stubborn weed species.

When used according to directions, established bluegrass and many other species used on fairways and rough are not injured by 2,4-D. Bent grass as used on greens has been injured in some instances, and therefore this type of grass usually should be given only a spot treatment with a hand sprayer.

White clover is in a class by itself so far as weeds go, being a desirable constituent on most home lawns but a weed to many greenkeepers. Single average applications of 2,4-D do not ordinarily kill white clover. The plant suffers a severe setback but usually recovers to such an extent that a reduction in the population is hardly noticeable a year later. At Walnut Hills, it was observed that spraying just before its blooming season reduced clover flowering to a minimum during the 1946 season. The ester formulations of 2,4-D have more effect on white clover than the salt formulations.

Sprayer Cleaning Important

None of the various 2,4-D compositions are corrosive, and if the spray rig is being used for weed spraying alone or for applying fungicides to greens, a simple wash with cold water is all that is necessary in cleansing the sprayer. Small amounts of 2,4-D remaining in a sprayer will cause a bad reaction on certain highly sensitive plants such as roses and tomatoes if the sprayer is used later for an insecticide or fungicide. Washing with water or even soap suds is not always sufficient, especially if one of the ester compositions of 2,4-D is used. The U. S. Department of Agriculture reports that household ammonia is a satisfactory material for eliminating 2,4-D from a sprayer.

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