

## Developing a Control Program for English Daisy

by Bob Costa

Those of you located near the coastal regions of Northern California are no doubt aware of the problems associated with the control of English Daisy. It's perennial life cycle, waxy leaf cuticle, woody root system, and adaptability to coastal areas has placed this broadleaf weed at the forefront of many a superintendent's greatest maintenance challenges.

In many instances, populations of English Daisy persist at levels well beyond established thresholds for golf courses and fine turf areas. Chemical applications provide the most effective control, however, when applied improperly the degree of control can vary greatly.

To assure responsible turfgrass maintenance, all pesticide applications must be made with the objective to obtain maximum reduction of the target pest, in the most cost-effective and environmentally sensitive manner. In order to accomplish this goal, careful attention must be paid to chemical selection, timing of application, and application

techniques.

Prior to scheduling a chemical application, identify the specific areas where populations of English Daisy exist. Based upon the density of weed infestation and accessibility to spray equipment, determine whether broadcast or spot applications are required. Precise location of English Daisy infestations will assist you later when you evaluate the effectiveness of your spray program.

Proper chemical selection and rate of application are just the first steps in an effective spray program. Of equal importance is to ensure these chemicals are applied at the proper time, and with the most effective application techniques.

Before scheduling your next chemical application for English Daisy, be aware of the following factors which will improve your overall control, and assist you in meeting the objectives of your spray program. Remember, it doesn't cost any more to do it right.

*Continued on page 4*

## Tips from the USGA They're Always Too Something

by Paul Vermeulen  
USGA Agronomist

What is always too hard or too soft, too wet or too dry, too dark or too light, and/or too coarse or too fine? If you do not know the answer, then you probably have never played a round of golf. If you have, then you have never landed in a bunker. That, by the way, is the answer -- a bunker. A depression, usually filled with sand, that is defined as a hazard in the Rules of Golf. A place where you are never happy because you know you are going to get punished. And that is what the argument is all about. What is fair punishment?

Should the ball plug if it lands in the face? Some people say it should, others say that plugged lies are unfair. Should you have an opportunity to putt, or must you get the ball airborne? Some people say a bunker would not be a hazard if you have the opportunity to putt, others say being in the sand is hazard enough. Should the surface of the sand have a smooth finish, or should it have deep furrows? Some people say the sand should be perfectly smooth so you have an opportunity to make unobstructed contact with the ball and spin it on the green. Others disagree, saying the bunker should not be a place of opportunity.

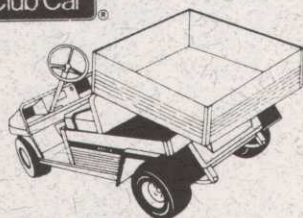
Who is the Supreme Judge when it comes to deciding what is fair and equitable punishment? The answer is the Green Committee Chairperson. In the Rules of Golf it says that the Committee, usually meaning Green Committee, decides the condition of the course, e.g., the condition of the bunkers. Stop! Before you run for office and become a tyrant, remember that there are at least some basic guidelines that should be considered. Just because you become Green Chairperson doesn't mean you should use,

*Continued on page 6*

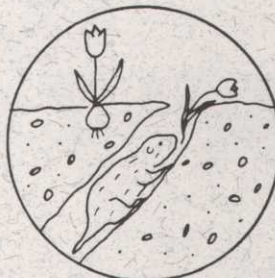
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**ENGLISH DAISY***Continued from page 3***Timing**

☑ Best control is achieved with post-emergent herbicides when weeds are actively growing. This requires soil temperatures of a minimum of 55 degrees.

☑ Chemical uptake by weed species is enhanced by warm sunny days. Avoid chemical applications when temperatures are below 65 degrees, and under foggy or cloudy considerations.

☑ Mowing prior to or immediately after application may remove the chemical from the leaf, or reduce the leaf surface area. When possible, avoid mowing prior to or after chemical application.

☑ Rain or irrigation following a chemical application may reduce the absorption of the pesticide into the leaf tissue. Avoid spraying when rain is forecast or irrigation is scheduled within 24 hours.

☑ Aerification and vertical mowing of fairways and roughs provide an ideal location for seed deposition and subsequent germination. Schedule these activities after chemical applications when possible.

*Continued on page 7***WELCOME TO THE GREEN**

Welcome to the following new GCSANC members:

**CLASS B**

**Scott Stambaugh**  
Quail Lodge

**ASSOCIATES***(30 day wait)*

**Harry Adkinson**  
Sugar Mill Country Club

**Al Nunez**  
Blackhawk Country Club  
eligible for upgrade to B

**AFFILIATES***(30 day wait)*

**Doug Martin**  
Sales rep

**Dan McKay**  
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**Phil Reiker**  
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The next testing location will be at Saratoga Country Club on August 22, 1994 at 3:00pm.

We will be setting a location in the North Bay for testing in September to be announced in the next newsletter. Get your upgrade application in now.

Our members are eligible for a NCGA handicap card through the association at no charge. If you do not have one, please contact Roger Martinez or Barbara Mikel to get an application.

To those of you signing up for golf at meetings via the reservation forms, it would expedite the pairings if you will send in your index with the reservation. There is a lot of time spent at meetings trying to get all the information and complete the pairings. Pairings are made in advance, so make sure your preferred foursomes are confirmed prior to sending in your reservations. There is a lot of confusion at the meetings because of changes at the last minute. This can run more smoothly if everyone will help us.

Leon Snethen

**Naumann's NorCal News**

**Ross Miller** has left Valley Gardens GC in Scotts Valley to become the superintendent at Pinhigh GC and Driving Range in San Jose. Pinhigh is a range and 3-hole practice facility...**Chris Shank** has left a foreman's position at Santa Clara Golf & Tennis Club

to become the turfgrass manager at Divot City, a golf practice facility in Milpitas...At Palo Alto Muni Golf Course, **Dave Davies** reports they are putting in place a new pumping system along with a blending facility so they can get on line this fall.

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**ENGLISH DAISY***Continued from page 4*

☑ Chemical uptake by weed species is increased when there is adequate soil moisture. Avoid making herbicide applications under conditions of moisture and drought stress.

**Application**

☑ Apply herbicide in sufficient volumes of water to ensure adequate spray coverage. Consult herbicide labels for recommended volumes of water.

☑ Adequate coverage is essential to effective chemical control. Applications should

be made when dew is present, or with indicator dyes to prevent skips or overlaps which may result in turf damage or costly reapplication.

☑ Properly calibrate spray equipment to ensure chemicals are applied at the recommended label rates. Inaccurate application rates may result in reduced control or turf damage.

☑ Post-emergent herbicides should be applied at low spray pressure (15-30psi) to reduce the drift potential and increase chemical coverage of the leaf surface.

☑ Repeat applications may often be necessary following initial chemical control. Careful monitoring of post application English Daisy populations is an important step in successful weed management. Evaluating control provides you with some basis for scheduling secondary applications, as well as determining the success of your chemical control program.

In conjunction with the use of chemicals for the control of English Daisy, we must always be aware of the role healthy turf plays in weed management. Proper fertilization, irrigation, and

culture practices such as aerification, verticutting, and mowing, all contribute to the development of dense, weed-free turf.

In the final analysis, the measure of success of a pest management program is often the result of the inclusion, or exclusion, or these factors. With the cost of chemicals, the demand for "perfect" playing conditions, and the concern for the health of the public and the environment, it's your responsibility to ensure that all chemical applications are made with forethought, applied safely, and produce the maximum results.

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