**Question:** We have a lot of white clover on our soccer field. We would like to treat the clover with a herbicide to get rid of it. The problem is the geese have it chewed off to the point where I am concerned that a herbicide that depends on available leaf surface will be less than effective. What can we do?

**Answer:** White clover, *Trifolium repens* L., is one of the most difficult broadleaf weeds to control in athletic fields. White clover has adapted to survive under moist soil conditions, low nitrogen fertility, soil acidity, and low mowing heights. White clover reproduces by seed (pods) and the rooting of creeping above ground stems (stolons).

The first step in avoiding weed encroachment is to maintain a healthy, dense, vigorous stand of turf. White clover is a legume whose presence in turf usually signifies a nitrogen deficient soil. Applying nitrogen at a rate of 2 - 3 lbs N/1000 sq. ft over one growing season should alleviate this problem. White clover has a shallow root system that is highly susceptible to drought. Proper water management during periods of dry weather can help reduce white clover populations. Also, maintain a soil pH of at least 6.0 with 6.5 to 6.7 being preferred.

White clover is most susceptible to the herbicides clopyralid, MCPP/MCPA, and dicamba. Of these three, clopyralid (a component of Confront herbicide) is probably the most effective. Clopyralid will also be taken up by the roots of white clover and would be the best herbicide to use in situations where the clover has been recently mowed or the foliage has been eaten by geese. Herbicide treatments for white clover control should be made prior to (mid-spring) or following flowering (fall).