Weed prevention in cool-season grasses

Each year, unwanted grass and broadleaf weeds are a multimillion dollar problem. They rob beauty from lawns, golf courses and landscaped areas; steal water, nutrients and profits; and squander millions of dollars in labor as workers try to remove them.

But in weed control, an ounce of prevention truly is worth a pound of cure. That's why more and more professionals are using preemergence herbicide programs to control weed problems before they get started.

Turf management practices differ according to the turfgrass manager's needs. Length and spectrum of control are two of the most important variables turfgrass managers must decide upon when choosing a preemergence herbicide. For the turf manager who wants control of specific problem weeds such as crabgrass in the spring, or poa annua in the fall, the full season preemergence herbicide may not be necessary. Control of the target species is the concern. A herbicide that offers this control with a predictable length of residual control in the soil would be the best value to him and less costly than the full season control products. The predictable length of control also allows him to control the target weeds and still utilize cultural practices such as

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reseeding or overseeding without concerns for germination of the desirable grass seeds.

The eight- to ten-week control with a single application of Balan® offers excellent crabgrass and poa annua control with maximum overseeding safety. This predictable length of control offers the turf manager flexibility to utilize the cultural practices he needs to maintain the best growing environment.

Balan is available in a granular formulation from Elanco or sprayable formulations and fertilizer combinations from formulators. "I use Balan on all our tees, and we have 27 of them with 18 more opening soon," says Ed Benoit of Shadow Lake Country Club, Penfield, N.Y. "We’re getting good results. I keep using the Elanco products, so they’ve got to be working. We have by far the most beautiful public course around, and Elanco products are helping to keep us beautiful."

On the other hand, some turf managers need a longer length of control. Golf course superintendents desiring crabgrass and goosegrass control, and lawn care operators who apply preemergence herbicides early in the season on their first rounds need a product with a longer residual. Cool season turf managers now have a product that fits this need in a new product from Elanco, called Team™. Team offers a longer residual with effective crabgrass and goosegrass control at an affordable price.

"I just started using Team this year, and it looks like it’s doing a pretty good job," says Joe Norris of Jamestown Park Golf Course, Jamestown, N.Y. "If you time it right, it’ll work fine. Timing is the key."

Team is now available on an easy-to-spread clay particle from Elanco. Team sprayable and Team in combination with granular fertilizers will be available in early 1986 through selected formulators.

Liquid-applied weed control on home lawns