WEEDWATCH
STANDING SENTINEL TO PROTECT PLANT HEALTH

For more information regarding these and other turf weeds — and related control technologies and tips — please visit www.DowProvesIt.com or call 800/255-3726.

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COMMOM DANDELION
Taraxacum officinale

IDENTIFICATION TIPS
› This perennial overwinters as a small rosette of leaves. Seedlings grow from a taproot and begin to emerge in early spring, when soil temperatures reach 50 F.
› Solitary, bright yellow blossoms grow on the end of leafless, hollow stalks that emit a white milky sap when broken.
› It produces a puffball seedhead shortly after mowing, and seeds are easily dispersed by wind.

CONTROL TIPS
› For early-season control of weeds that overwintered, apply a postemergent herbicide containing florasulam to turf early in the spring, when temperatures are cool and the dandelions have not yet bloomed.
› Thick, healthy turf is important for managing this weed species. Properly mow, water and fertilize lawns to encourage healthy growth and minimize thin turf.

FALSE DANDELION
Hypochaeris radicata

IDENTIFICATION TIPS
› Also known as cat’s ear/catsear or flatweed, this perennial weed closely resembles common dandelion (Taraxacum officinale).
› Leaves are arranged in a basal rosette; they are densely hairy with toothed or irregularly lobed margins. This is in contrast to common dandelion, which has highly divided, hairless leaves.
› Each leafless stalk has two to seven bright yellow ray flowers. Leaves and flower stalks emit a milky substance when broken.

CONTROL TIPS
› As with any turfgrass weed, proper cultural maintenance of the lawn will greatly reduce false dandelion’s prevalence and presence. Properly mow, fertilize and water lawns to encourage healthy turf.
› When false dandelion is actively growing, apply a postemergent, systemic herbicide, such as florasulam, that will move from the treated foliage throughout the plant and into the extensive root system to provide control.

PHOTOS: F. YELVERTON (LEFT); TOM HEUTTE, USDA FOREST SERVICE, BUGWOOD.ORG

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