



DICHONDRA (Dichondra repens)

By STEVE BATTEN

Dichondra is a soft leaf, low growing ground cover that occasionally is observed as a weed in South Florida. Often confused with dollarweed, dichondra spreads by underground runners and prefers sandy soils. It produces inconspicuous seed sets found underneath the leaves. Similar to many broadleaf weeds, dichondra can be controlled in bermudagrass with phexozy herbicides. Dichondra, as a weed, is found world wide.

As a ground cover in the Southwestern United States, dichondra has been planted in mixtures with Dutch clover. Fast germination in late spring makes dichondra easy to establish at seeding rates of 1-2 pounds per 1000 feet. As a ground cover the cultural practices for maintaining dichondra include requesnt close mowing. It is ironic that, as a ground cover, the most persistant weed in a dichondra lawn is often bermudagrass.

(illustration from *TURF MANAGEMENT FOR GOLF COURSES*, Fall 1982, by James Beard, published by Burgess Publishing Co., Minneapolis, Minn., illustrated by Steve Batten) ■