

Three-pronged attack on dandelions, clover can be augmented

By HAL PHILLIPS

Sometimes using the right product isn't enough. A knowledge of the product's make-up can assist in fine tuning its use.

For example, most post-emergent herbicides designed to combat the flourish of dandelions are equipped with the active ingredient Trimec. As most superintendents already know, the *tri* in Trimec stands for three components that give the herbicide its effectiveness: 2,4-D, MCPP and dicamba.

"In the old days, when my dad and grandfather were superintendents, they had to mix all three themselves," recalled Terry Buchen, head superintendent at the Double Eagle Club in Galena, Ohio.

But with the release of Trimec (a PBI Gordon Corp. product) and Tripower (from Riverdale Chemical co.), those days are gone — sort of. When dandelions and particularly clover prove overly stubborn, additional doses of dicamba and 2,4-D can be added to the three-pronged attack.

This method of dandelion control matters most to superintendents in the Midwest and Northeast, where cool season grasses cope with all four seasons.

"We've been using a Trimec program this spring. In fact we're doing it right now," reported Buchen in mid-May. "We use two Trimec products. We use Trimec Bent on the greens and fairways and Trimec



Dandelions come in four discernible forms and crop up most frequently in the Midwest and Northeast, where turfs are forced to cope with four full seasons.

Classic on bluegrass and native grasses."

When it comes to clover control, Buchen recommended adding a little dicamba to the mix. "For that extra zap," he explained.

Ron Fister, director of specialty sales at Sandoz Agro Inc., indicated that "beefing up" the dicamba level to one quarter pound per acre should be plenty. He noted that Trimec is formulated at one tenth of a pound per acre, while Tripower is one eighth.

Bumping the dicamba level to a quarter "still isn't high enough to cause any tree or shrub damage," said Fister.

However, Buchen and Fister noted that dicamba won't do anything special to combat dandelion proliferation. The 2,4-D aspect of Trimec attacks the dandelions most directly, said Buchen, and one should be careful when increasing the 2,4-D percentage because it can injure bentgrass.

Fister said, "There should be enough 2,

4,D in all these products to handle any dandelion problem you have. Of course, you can put too much product from an economic viewpoint. But overall, they're formulated to handle increases and not harm the turf."

Post-emergent herbicides which go after dandelions come in granular and liquid forms.

"The only negative with a granular," said Buchen, "is it'll move on you in a heavy rain. Get a large percentage of it in one place and it might kill the grass."

There is a flip side, of course. Bill Spence, head superintendent at The Country Club in Brookline, Mass., is careful to use a granular formulation of Gallery from DowElanco when treating areas near the clubhouse.

"When I was at Pebble Beach, we sprayed a courtyard within the compound there, near the practice green," said Spence. "Everything was fine but we blistered some climbing roses nearby. Must have been some fuming."

"I've also seen trees wilt if you aren't careful about fuming."

On the golf course, Spence explained his staff is very conservative when it comes to chemical application. They tend to wait until everything is up — in late May and early June — before acting on things like late-germinating clover.

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Company	Applicable areas	Active ingredient (common name)	Rate of effectiveness	Formulation	Mix rate (lbs./1000 sq. feet)	Selective or non-selective	Application rate	Residual effect under normal weather conditions	Level of mobility after application
Country Club 12-4-8 Lebanon Chemical Circle #306	Tees roughs fairways	Trimec	.703%	Granular	4-6	Selective	4-6 lbs. per square ft.	none	none
Trex-San Bent Grace-Sierra Circle #307	---	2,4-D, MCPP, Dicamba	---	Liquid	(see label)	Selective	---	---	---
Twin Light Seacoast Labs Inc. Circle #308	Tees, fairways roughs	Trimec	Very high	granular	2	Selective	2 lbs/ 1000 sq. ft	30 days	Fairly, due to carrier
ProTurf 32-4-8 O.M. Scotts Circle #309	All areas but greens	2,4-D MCPP, Dicamba	Highly effective	granular	0.9	Selective	.9 lbs. per acre	4 weeks	little, none