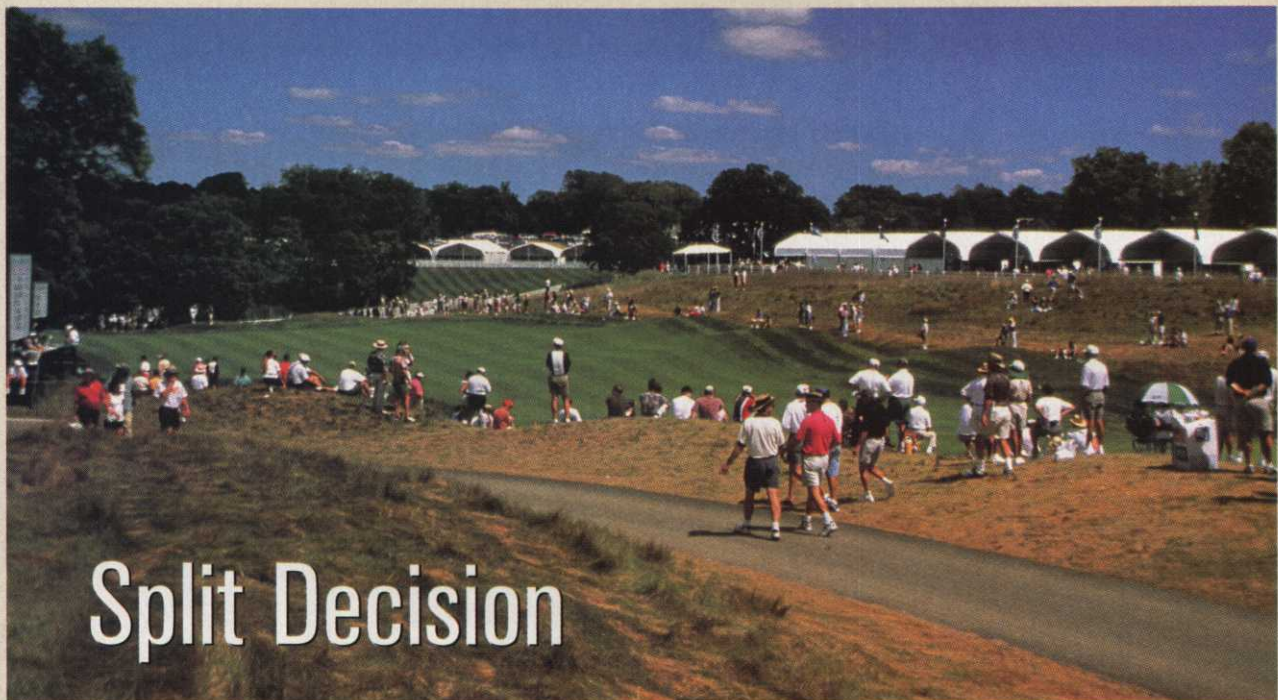


Real-Life Solutions

■ VALHALLA GC, LOUISVILLE, KY



Split Decision

When you stage a PGA Championship, you have to make sure your course is in pristine condition for attendees and TV viewers, Mark Wilson says.

Valhalla CGCS Mark Wilson opted to divide herbicide applications on new turf to capitalize on brand's pre- and post-emergent activity

Problem

Heavy construction during the winter months at the site of two PGA Championships forced spring reseeding and resodding. This precluded early spring uses of pre-emergent herbicides.

Solution

Split application of a pre- and post-emergent herbicide helped restore aesthetics and playability in time for a late-summer tournament.

Valhalla GC in Louisville, Ky., has hosted two PGA Championships since the mid-1990s. The club reconstructed nine tees after the first championship in 1996. Each year since, additional modifications have been made.

In preparation for this year's tournament, which took place in August, new tees were built on holes 1, 2 and 6, and existing tees were extended or enlarged on holes 3, 5, 11, 12, 14 and 18. The backside of the No. 8 green also was extended, and a bunker was added to the left side of the No. 9 fairway.

The problem

This type of heavy-duty construction over the winter

months exacerbated crabgrass and goosegrass emergence in the spring because the reseeding and resodding that was necessary precluded the use of early-application herbicides. Preferential grasses need time to establish before herbicides can be applied.

By the time herbicides could be safely applied at Valhalla, much of the crabgrass and goosegrass that annually plagues the course already had already emerged. So applying herbicides that only have pre-emergence activity was useless. At the same time, products that only offer post-emergence control wouldn't prevent crabgrass that might germinate later. As a result, a product with a large window of pre- and post-emergent activity was

needed to maintain course aesthetics and playability.

According to CGCS Mark Wilson, crabgrass and goosegrass present more problems than merely being unsightly and adversely affecting play.

"These weeds rob nutrients from our more desirable grasses and shade them, robbing them of sunlight, when we need the grasses to grow and strengthen," Wilson says. "Weakened grasses are prone to diseases. We certainly don't need to find disease problems on the course in July and August."

It's vital not to have weak turf going into the heat of the summer, Wilson notes.

"Herbicide damage to reseeded or freshly sodded turf in the spring will lead to major problems with disease

Real-Life Solutions

in the summer," he says. "We want to be sure that the herbicides we use will not adversely affect our new spring growth. We want our grasses well established before the normal stresses of the summer build."

The solution

During the spring prior to the first tournament in 1996, Wilson investigated several herbicides. To allow freshly seeded grasses to grow, it was necessary to delay using pre-emergent herbicides until late May.

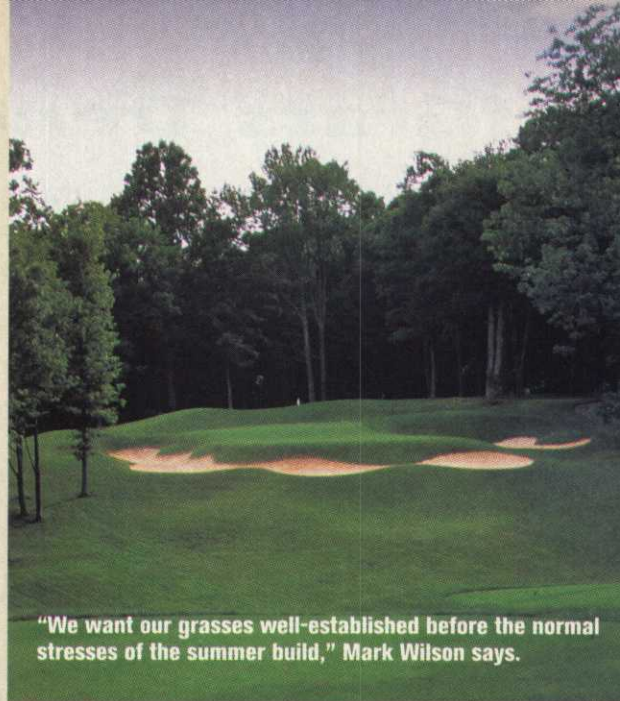
One of the products Wilson evaluated was Dimension herbicide (dithiopyr), which is labeled for pre- and

post-emergent crabgrass control. Wilson split the Dimension herbicide applications to capitalize on its pre- and post-emergent activity and further extend its residual control.

The first application went down in late May, followed by a second application in early June.

Outcome

"Following the split applications, the course remained crabgrass- and goosegrass-free for the full season, and we did not experience any phytotoxicity, even on the newly sodded or reseeded areas," Wilson says. "We applied Dimension at half-label



"We want our grasses well-established before the normal stresses of the summer build," Mark Wilson says.

rates in late May, and then again the first week of June. We apply the product this way each year after we reseed or resod in the spring."

Wilson says the course hasn't experienced any weed

invasions since he began using the herbicide.

"Because so many people around the world watch the play at a major event, we had to be sure our course was in pristine shape," he adds. ■

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