



## It's winter, and a Northern superintendent's thoughts turn to **Weed Control**

**I**t may be December and cold and snowy, but some Northern superintendents already have visions of spring dandelions dancing in their heads. So we decided to ask them: What are the most important things to remember in planning for weed control next year? Here's what they had to say:

"Review the past year and look to see what worked and what didn't work. Look to see what weeds you have and make sure you address specific problems. You also need to determine whether or not you will be overseeding before deciding on a pre-emergent application. I tend to formulate my weed-control program based on specific needs as opposed to a shotgun approach."

— **Mike Sauls**, superintendent of **Butler National Golf Club** in **Oak Brook, Ill.**

"Broadleaf control is best in the fall. So you'll be ahead of the game if you did it this fall. If it's a moist year like the past two years, the weeds just keep coming. So keep the sprayer going."

— **Steve Numbers**, superintendent of **Westfield Group Country Club** in **Westfield, Ohio.**

"We're re-evaluating our weed-control program, especially in light of introduction of newer herbicides. We want to positively identify our problem weeds, analyze why we think they occurred or invaded [the course] and then research controls for them. Are they annuals, perennials, sedges or grasses? Did they occur because of turf loss, turf stress or certain cultural

practices, such as mowing height and fertility? In a nutshell, we want to find what we can do to stop or control weeds with a keep-it-simple method first. It might be a slight cultural adjustment, or it may end up requiring some major attack method. Certainly, the money spent on the program must be evaluated, as well as possible environmental consequences."

— **Jerry Coldiron**, certified superintendent of **Boone Links/Lassing Pointe** in **Florence, Ky.**

"The most important things I try to remember are:

- What are the most-difficult-to-control weeds?
- On what grass species and on what site will an herbicide be sprayed?
- What time of the year do I need to apply these herbicides?
- What adjuvants or surfactants can I add to possibly lower rates or increase effectiveness?
- What products for weed control are not registered for use in my state?"

— **Kevin Seibel**, superintendent of **Century Country Club** in **Purchase, N.Y.**

"Effective weed control is about applying the correct herbicide at the right time of year and at the proper rate for your grass types and maturity level of the turf."

— **Chris Ayers**, certified superintendent of **Lakewood Country Club** in **Rockville, Md.**

*Compiled by Larry Aylward, Editor*