

Manufacturers  
discuss herbicide  
technology now and  
in the future

# Talking Herbicides

**Question:** What are golf course superintendents asking for in herbicides and new herbicide technology?

**Kyle Miller**, Senior Technical Specialist, BASF Turf & Ornamentals

• There seems to be a need for products that eliminate grassy perennial weeds out of desirable turfgrass, so in other words taking a perennial weedy grass out of a perennial turfgrass. This would include controlling orchardgrass in fescue, torpedograss in warm-season turf or eliminating dallisgrass from several cool-season turfgrasses.



**Adam Manwarren**, Product Manager of Turf & Ornamental, FMC Professional Solutions

• Superintendents are asking for MSMA-replacement, easy-to-use products and ways to lower total pounds of active ingredient applied without sacrificing results. Also, if a new herbicide can result in lower overall management costs (labor, future chemical expenditures, or water/fertilizer resources), it's a winning proposition.



*Editor's note: In September, October and November, Golfdom features a three-part question-and-answer series on herbicide technology. In each segment, representatives from the industry's vast number of chemical companies will be asked one question in regard to herbicide technology. The representatives' answers will be listed along with their photos.*

**Russ Mitchell**, Product and Marketing Director, Quali-Pro

• Products that work and, if possible, are broad-spectrum and specific to superintendents' needs. For example, if a superintendent in the North needs to reseed his bentgrass fairways in the fall, he needs to make sure he uses a spring pre-emerge that's effective, but doesn't last too long to inhibit seed growth in the fall. Superintendents in the South may need to use a product that controls broadleaf weeds at the same time they're removing overseeded ryegrass. Another may only need broadleaf weed control. Needs are very specific and that's why there are so many options available. Another large concern is a cost-effective replacement for MSMA for warm-season turf to control post-emerge crabgrass and goosegrass. They're available but are more expensive, and it takes several products to control both.



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**Jason Fausey**, Regional Field Development Manager, Valent Professional Products • Superintendents need safe and effective products for selective grass control. In both warm- and cool-season turfgrass, controlling established perennial weedy grasses can be an issue. There needs to be a high level of safety on the desired turf, yet still selectively eliminate a weedy grass that is growing in the same area.



**Matt Bradley**, Herbicide Marketing Manager, Bayer Environmental Science • Turf managers are looking for solutions that will control weeds that may be missed by pre-emerge herbicide applications or do not have any currently effective solutions from a post-emerge standpoint. Some of the most popular products on the market now are products that provide broad-spectrum weed control with excellent turf safety, providing superintendents with the utmost in peace of mind.

**Nancy Schwartz**, Marketing Manager of Turf and Ornamentals, DuPont Professional Products • They have grown accustomed to the limitations of most of the available herbicides but will welcome anything new that makes their job easier. They're looking for newer chemistries that provide reliable and broad-spectrum control of common and tough-to-control weeds. Superintendents also expect newer products to allow application flexibility, regardless of the weather or reseeding plans.



**Doug Houseworth**, Technical Service Manager, Arysta LifeScience North America • Superintendents want herbicides that work fast and provide long residual control. They're looking for flexibility in timing so they can work the applications into their schedules instead having to time the applications based on the stage of development of the weeds. They want post-emergence products that also contain pre-emergence activity for the full season. They want products that are safe to the turf and don't have restrictions on reseeding.



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**Todd Bunnell**, Turf and Ornamental Research Manager/Golf Market Manager, SePRO • Superintendents want selectivity while providing excellent turfgrass tolerance with minimal disruption to turf quality and playability.

**Owen Towne**, President, Phoenix Environmental Care • Superintendents are looking for herbicides that provide cost-effective solutions to their weed problems. Most “new” products are either combinations of existing products or chemistries that provide incremental control over existing products. And most new herbicide chemistries provide control of weeds in niche markets.



**Mark Urbanowski**, Portfolio Marketing Leader of Turf and Ornamental, Dow AgroSciences • Superintendents continue to desire products that help control the weed problems, so effectiveness of new technologies is still top priority. Then there is a balance on cost-effectiveness and environmental safety. Budgets have gotten tighter recently, so there is a balance on picking the best product for cost and reduced environmental impact.

**S. Gary Custis**, Manager of Field and Technical Services, PBI/Gordon • Most are looking for products that work quickly but effectively. Safety is a big issue. Selective grass control on bentgrass greens is important. Sedge control on cool-season grass remains important as well as an effective annual grass control.



**Scott Cole**, Golf Market Manager, Syngenta • Superintendents today want herbicides that deliver much more than just dead weeds. They need time- and labor-saving solutions that offer superior efficacy, reduced risk, better water utilization and flexible use patterns. ■

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