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were very effective.

The best treatment was fenoxaprop-P plus triclopyr plus mesotrione. This combination reduced bermudagrass cover from 71 percent when the study started to 2 percent when evaluated mid-summer in the next season. The majority of the plots treated with this combination were completely free of bermudagrass. No previous selective bermudagrass control program has reduced bermudagrass populations this much in one growing season. Although this strategy does not affect bermudagrass in summer for about two months, we speculate that spring applications provide enough initial suppression to limit active growth through most of the summer, and then fall applications completely deplete energy reserves in rhizomes and stolons. Bermudagrass then succumbs to the combination of herbicide effects and winter kill.

There are disadvantages to this program. One is cost. Another problem is that the 4 oz/A rate of mesotrione and 32 oz/A rate of Turflon Ester (triclopyr) that we used would exceed annual use rates if the products are broadcast applied to the target area. Obviously, being a six-application program, simply treating six times will not be cheap or easy. Data suggest that stretching application intervals or missing applications will greatly reduce the effectiveness of these treatments. So sticking to the timings outlined above is a necessity. These treatments would be more economical and likely less injurious when spot applied instead of broadcast applied. Our future efforts will combine more herbicides to avoid exceeding annual use rates. We will target the herbicides with least effects on turf for summer treatments and more aggressive herbicides for spring and fall treatments. We will also test tank mixtures of even more than three products in an attempt to find the holy grail of single treatment, selective bermudagrass control.

Mesotrione is a new herbicide to turfgrass markets. Applications of mesotrione produce extremely bleached bermudagrass, essentially turning bermudagrass white, significantly reducing turf color ratings for plots treated with mesotrione. This is because mesotrione inhibits carotenoid biosynthesis in susceptible plants. Another interesting finding was that mesotrione plus triclopyr combinations did not have this character-

istic effect on bermudagrass and had higher turf color evaluations than mesotrione alone. Further research with this combination found that there were similar effects toward several other species including nimblewill, crabgrass, bentgrass, and several broadleaf species. Additionally, mesotrione plus triclopyr is outstanding for general weed control. The combinations control perennial broadleaf weeds that mesotrione alone does not control well like white clover, broadleaf plantain, and wild violet while controlling nimblewill, bentgrass, and crabgrass when applied in sequence. So if you chose to use mesotrione and triclopyr in programs for bermudagrass, nimblewill or bentgrass control, you will more than likely not have other weeds to worry about in the treated areas.

*John Willis is a research associate and Ph.D. candidate in turfgrass weed science at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Va.*

*Shawn Askew is associate professor of turfgrass weed science in the department of plant pathology at Virginia Tech. He is also Virginia's extension specialist for turfgrass weeds. For more information, visit his web site at [www.turfweeds.net](http://www.turfweeds.net).*



JOHN DEERE

#### QUICK TIP

With spring just around the corner, it's time to think about the inevitable nuisance: weeds. To assist in prevention, use a selective pre-emergent herbicide for control of annual grasses and broadleaf weeds in turf and ornamentals. For more information on weed control, contact your John Deere Golf agronomic sales representative, or visit [www.johndeere.com](http://www.johndeere.com)

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# Leaders

## PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

**Tom Vlach** will become the new golf course superintendent at the PGA Tour flagship TPC Sawgrass, home to The Players Championship. Vlach's new responsibilities will begin after the tournament in May, upon the retirement of long-time golf course superintendent **Fred Klauk**, who worked for the PGA Tour for 27 years. Klauk will assist in the transition and remain active with the PGA Tour in a project-management capacity.

**David Both** is the general manager of the new Venetian Bay Country Club near Daytona Beach, Fla., a KemperSports-managed property. Both formerly directed golf operations at Suntree Country Club in the Greater Orlando.

FarmLinks hired **David DeWeese** as golf course superintendent at FarmLinks Golf Course, a research and demonstration facility. DeWeese comes to FarmLinks after four years as assistant superintendent at Willow Point Golf and Country Club in Alexander City, Ala.

**Steve Zwilling**, the Eastern U.S. market development manager for PROFILE Products LLC, was unanimously voted to join the board of directors of the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the International Erosion Control Association.

Southern Land Co. LLC has named **Glynn Taylor** director of the Westhaven Golf Club, which officially broke ground in August. The Club, which is slated to open in spring 2009, also recently concluded its first release of Memberships by welcoming 200 Charter Members. Most recently, Taylor was vice president of golf at Fairvue Plantation.

**Chris Buckle** joined the E-Z-GO and Ransomes Jacobsen sales team and will be responsible for golf car sales and territory development in the south of England and Wales.

Marriott Golf promoted **Tom Farris** to director of golf at Westfields Golf Club, an 18-hole Fred Couples designed course in Clifton, Va. Farris



DeWeese



Taylor



Buckle

has served as the head golf professional at Westfields since 2004.

Valent Professional Products restructured its sales force and added **Kerry Anderson**, **Quent Baria** and **Jim Santoro** as territory managers in the Midwest and Atlantic regions. **Mark Sybouts**, a current Valent territory manager for the ornamental and turf markets, will work full-time with Midwest as a result of the restructuring. Anderson and Santoro join Valent from Bayer's Environmental Science Division. Baria is a certified golf course superintendent and was previously the head golf course superintendent for Towson Golf Course & Country Club in Phoenix, Md.

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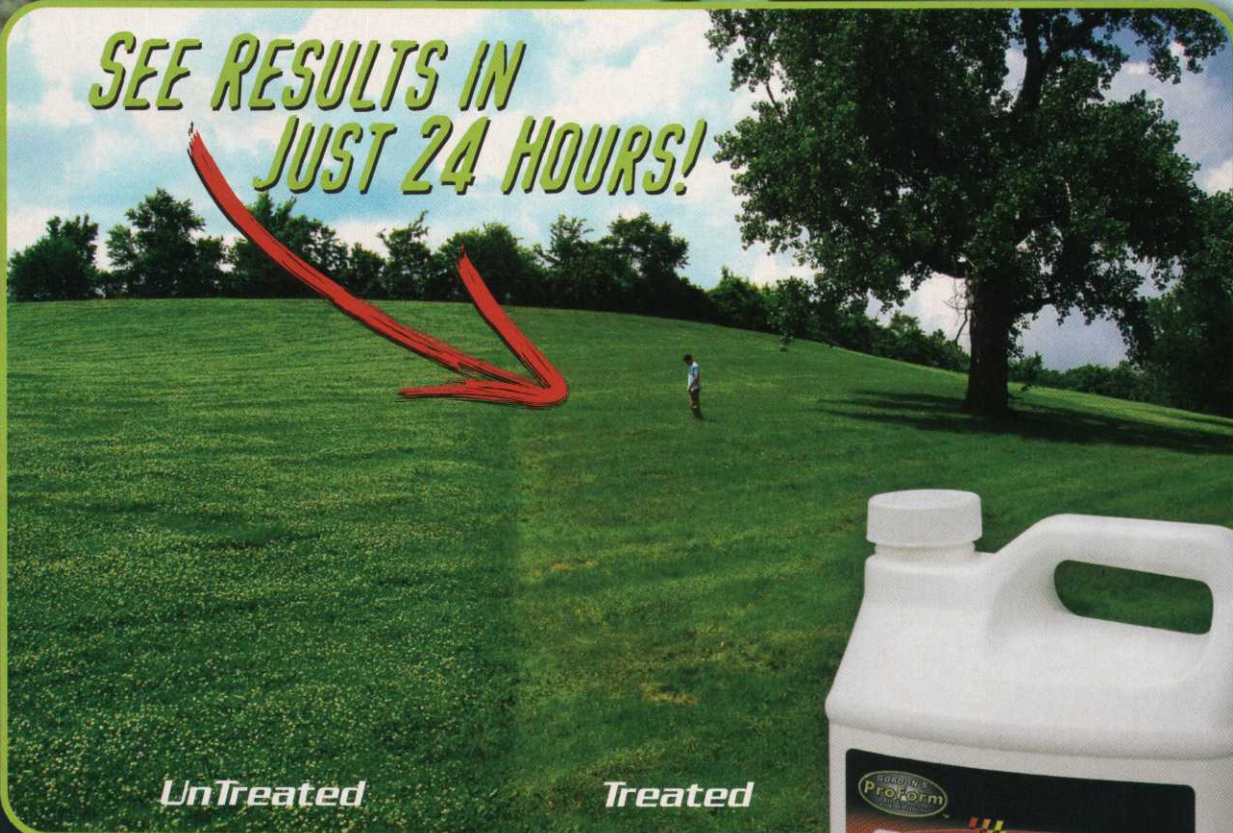
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# Laminate floors

**A**las, the kitchen at our 1950s ranch not only didn't cut the mustard, the linoleum floor more resembled spoiled mustard, complete with putrid shadings of green and yellow, chosen presumably to match the avocado counter tops. To make matters worse, the linoleum was ridged with tiny ripples, veritable grime super magnets in a high-traffic area.

I hated the stuff almost as much as Jen did, but the thought of ripping it out made me as nauseous as smelling rancid mustard. Paying someone to put in a new floor was certainly an option, if we lived in Fantasyland. As pressure from my better half rose, inaction was no longer tenable, thus armed with nothing but panic and a tiny budget, I hit upon a suitable answer — laminate flooring.

No, it's not really wood flooring; it's a tough wear layer over a really thin picture of wood atop a processed wood core. Laminate floors float — literally — atop whatever surface used to be your floor. Laminate floors, too, cost much, much less than traditional wood floors.

I paid about \$2 a square foot for the 100 square feet I needed. Adding in the tools I needed, which I will get to later, I ended up with a new kitchen floor for around \$300 and a day's

## FAUX WOOD FLOORING AT HALF THE PRICE

BY MARK LUCE

labor. If I had chosen hardwood, it would have run me at least \$1,200.

The laminate companies will tell you their floors are easier to clean, last longer and can be fixed easily. They are right. It takes but water to clean a laminate floor, so say goodbye to funky waxes, expensive polishers or special mops. But the real advantage: installation's a tongue-and-groove snap.

With the trusty help of my mother's husband, Rory, a true handyman, we knocked out the floor, including cutting a door, in about eight hours. However, before you dive in willy-nilly, a few things to keep in mind.

Like any home-improvement project, preparation remains paramount. Thoroughly clean the surface the laminate will go over, and put down (very flat) a foam underlayment, which will dampen noise and soften the feel of the floor. Make sure you have 10 percent to 15 percent more flooring than you will need. Draw up a diagram, complete with measurements, to provide a rough guide to how you will proceed.

Secure the proper accessories. Most home-improvement stores will offer a set of tools you need to successfully



install the floor. These include a pull bar, a tapping block and spacers. In addition, if doors are present, you will need a jamb saw to cut the bottoms of door jambs to fit the floor.

Stagger the planks. You don't want all the seams in the same place, so cut three or four different lengths and then proceed.

Work as a team. One person should do all the cutting (on a table saw), one person should do all the measuring, of course, with the same tape. Double-check all measurements and communicate.

Working around doors and corners can be tricky, and thresholds can be tough to match. Be patient. You will make mistakes, but they are easily resolved.

By no means will this guide do your work for you, but it will put you on your way to re-inventing nasty old floors.

*Mark Luce lives in Kansas City, Mo., where his next trick will be learning to construct bookcases for his kids' rooms.*

**GOLFDOM** (ISSN 1526-4270) is published monthly (12 issues per year) by Questex Media Group, Inc., 306 W Michigan Street, Suite 200, Duluth, MN 55802. Corporate office: 275 Grove St., Suite 2-130, Newton, MA 02466. Accounting, Advertising, Production and Circulation offices: 306 W. Michigan St., Suite 200 Duluth, MN 55802-1610. Subscription rates: One year \$39 (U.S. and possessions), \$59 (Canada and Mexico) and \$89 (all other countries). Air expedited service is available in countries outside the U.S. and Canada for an additional \$75 per year. Current issue single copies (prepaid only) \$5 (U.S. and possessions), \$7 (Canada and Mexico) and \$8 (all other countries). Back issues (if available, prepaid only) \$10 (U.S. and possessions), \$14 (Canada and Mexico) and \$16 (all other countries); add \$6.50 per order shipping and handling for both current and back issue purchases. Periodicals postage paid at Duluth MN 55806 and additional mailing offices.



POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to GOLFDOM, P.O. Box 1268, Skokie, IL 60076-8268. Canadian G.S.T. Number: 840033278RT0001, Publications Mail Agreement number 40017597. Printed in the U.S.A.  
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