

Weed prevention in warm-season grasses

For years, southern turf managers have had to take products developed for northern turf and adapt them to their situation. Today, a number of products have been introduced specifically for warm-season turf maintenance.

The southern turf season is considerably longer than its northern counterpart. Management programs for both warm-season turf and winter overseeded turf are necessary. Preemergence herbicides, such as *Balan*, have long played an important role in both programs.

Southern turf managers typically apply preemergence herbicides in February or early March for crabgrass, barnyardgrass, and foxtail control. In June, they re-apply for goosegrass control. Finally, annual bluegrass is a threat from October through December.

In addition to length of control, preemergence herbicides vary in their effectiveness on target weeds. *Balan* has shown consistent effectiveness against



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crabgrass and poa annua.

"This is the fifth year we've used two applications of *Balan* a year," notes Harold Neal of Tulsa Country Club, Tulsa, Okla. "My fairways and tees are just as clean as can be. We don't use any postemergence products at all, we've had such good success with *Balan*. And, we've also been using *XL*™ on problem goosegrass areas and get great control."

To meet the need for highly effective crabgrass and goosegrass control with one application, Elanco recently introduced *XL*. *XL* offers a longer residual and allows turf managers to control crabgrass and goosegrass with only one application timed premerge in the early spring.

Neal reports "great control" of problem goosegrass areas using *XL*, as does Bill Bird of The Greens Country Club, Oklahoma City, Okla.

"We have no weeds whatsoever," Bird says. "We used it last year under an experimental label, applying it around

Bay Hill Country Club, Orlando, Fla.





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*—Bill Bird
Oklahoma City, Okla.*



April 1st. We had absolutely no poa annua in our fairways until almost the first of December. We were a little late this year—around April 10th—but we're clean so far."

As in the North, the lawn care industry in the South needs a preemergence product that fits their treatment cycles. The longer residual and improved goosegrass control of XL gives lawn care companies improved weed control for their customers. An XL

application in February yields effective control of both spring and summer weeds.

If a sprayable formulation is preferable to a granular application, lawn care companies can use Surflan® flowable formulation (for bermudagrass only). Surflan can be applied in the spring for crabgrass and goosegrass control or in the fall for poa annua control. Surflan is available in quarts and gallons from Elanco.

Sea World, Orlando, Fla.

