

Golf Course Weed I.D. and Control

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When you work in the golf industry, you realize that there are literally hundreds of different weed control issues to deal with depending on the course's site, and the level of weed control the course operators want. In order to look at the golf industry as a whole, rather than hundreds of different maintenance scenarios, I try to look at several key issues that allow me to address the bulk of the weed problems faced by each golf course.

I have identified my top 10 weed problems faced by almost all the golf courses in the region I call on based five key factors; Is the weed found throughout the region, does it offer a negative appearance to the course, does it impact play, is it an issue to the high priority areas of the course such as greens or fairways, and do we have good management tools to utilize against the weed.

Based on these key issues, my top 10 golf course weeds are Crabgrass, Goosegrass, Kikuyugrass, Nut Sedge, Perennial Ryegrass, Clover, English Lawn Daisy, Knotweed, Spurweed, and my number one weed issue in golf course turf, Annual Bluegrass. These weeds are primarily found in either the greens, or fairways of most of the golf courses throughout the Southern San Joaquin Valley and Central Coast. Many chemical manufacturers do not register their chemistry on golf course greens, due to the high cost to construct or repair greens should there be some sort of damage, therefore we have limited but unique products for use on the greens for weed control. The fairways, tees, and roughs have a much more widely available chemical product line to choose from, thus we have many different product choices.

The pre-emergent products registered for use on golf greens are Bensumec, Dimension, (Anderson Fertilizer) and Tupersan. These products offer us our only registered choices for the prevention of crabgrass, goosegrass, and spurweed. The level of control can vary based on many factors, and in some cases we see virtually nothing but suppression but these are our only choices. The post emergent options for use on greens is even slimmer than the pre-emergent options. We have only one registered product for use on greens and that's a bentgrass formula of a 3-Way product called Trimec. This product does a good job on some of the broadleaf weed

problems found on golf course, but as you look at my top 10 list, you see virtually no broadleaf weeds that impact golf greens.

For all areas of the golf course, fairways, tees, and roughs, we have a wider array of products to choose from. The pre-emergent's of choice are the "Yellow Herbicides" such as Surflan, Barricade, and Pendulum, while the non-staining product Dimension also rates high on the preferred list. Additionally, products such as Ronstar, and perhaps the yet unregistered product Tower may offer unique fits for specific weed control issues. The post emergent chemicals available for these areas is also more diversified and allow many more control options. The use of 3-Way and 4-Way chemical blends are available and come in a wide variety of blends and concentrations. We also see newer chemistry coming to the market such as quinclorac, sulfonated urea chemistry, peneoxsulam and carfentrazone. With all these options we can usually find a fix for almost any grassy or broadleaf weed problem.