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*A Publication of the Vermont Golf Course Superintendents*

**September/October 2009**

**2009 Meeting Sites**

*Oct. 20 Quechee Club  
Annual Meeting & Election*

**Upcoming Events  
Calendar**

*December 6, 2009  
Annual ViGCSA Holiday Brunch  
Rutland C.C.*

*January 7, 2010  
January Education Symposium  
Shaker Ridge C.C.  
Loudonville, NY*

*February 8—12, 2010  
GCSAA International Golf Course  
Education Conference & Show  
San Diego, CA.*

*February 26—March 2, 2010  
Canadian International Turfgrass  
Conference & Trade Show  
Toronto, Ontario*

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**Maximizing Herbicide Effectiveness**  
By John Bresnahan, BASF Professional Turf & Ornamentals

*Investing time and effort before an application will provide greater weed control and prevent lost time and wasted product.*

While today's modern pesticides and application equipment help make golf course superintendents' jobs easier, when it comes to providing year-round control of turf-attacking weeds there is still much that must be considered. The work that is done before and after the herbicide application will eliminate time and resource draining errors and ensure a successful treatment.

**Identify Your Targets:** The best starting point in any weed control program is correctly identifying the weeds (broadleaf and grassy) in the area you are planning to treat. This includes those visible and those that you can anticipate seeing throughout the year.

Broadleaf weeds are easily identified in turf and are especially visible when in bloom. Bright yellow dandelion, white clover and purple henbit flowers are good examples. Grassy weeds such as Crabgrass, goosegrass and foxtail are more difficult to identify early and become increasingly difficult to control once established due to the large quantity of seed they produce.

The importance of correctly distinguishing between broadleaf and grassy weeds directly correlates to the type of herbicide that you will need to use. As an example, phenoxy herbicides control broadleaves but

have little to no effect on grasses, while a pre-emergence herbicide such as pendimethalin can be used to control grassy and many broadleaf weeds at the same time with one product application.

Once your target list of weeds is established and you've determined whether they are broadleaf or grassy, understanding each weed's lifecycle will help determine what herbicides will work best and whether a pre or postemergent strategy is the correct method to provide the best control. While the product label should be your guide in determining what herbicides will work best to control your targeted weeds, some basic considerations should include the following:

**Preemergent Weed Control:**

⇒ Annual grasses and broadleaf weeds are best controlled with preemergent applications in early spring prior to weed seed germination.

*(Continued on page 3)*

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