

Many golf courses are converting rough areas from highly managed turfgrass to low-maintenance native and naturalized grass species. This can reduce costs and labor, but best management practices are necessary to control weeds and maintain the aesthetic that golfers expect.

THE BENEFITS OF LOW-MAINTENANCE AREAS

- Less mowing means lower fuel and labor costs
- Can reduce the amount of irrigation
- Reduces the amount of required fertilizer inputs
- Reduces the overall amount of pesticide inputs



1

LESS MOWING

means lower fuel and labor costs



2

IRRIGATION

amount can be reduced



3

REQUIRED FERTILIZER INPUT

amount can be reduced



4

PESTICIDE INPUT

overall amount can be reduced

NATIVE AND NATURALIZED PLANTS

Superintendents from the transition zone northward typically choose tall and fine fescues for low-maintenance areas, while native warm-season grasses are utilized in the south.

There is a difference in native and naturalized plants:

- Native Plants: Naturally occur in the region or area in which they originally evolved. Buffalograss is the only turfgrass truly native to North America.
- Naturalized Plants: Has been introduced to an area and does not need human intervention to reproduce and maintain itself over time. Most turfgrasses are naturalized plants.

BMP

Best Management Practice

WEED CONTROL in Golf Course Native Areas

Because 100% weed control in low-maintenance areas isn't realistic, Superintendents usually choose one of two methods of managing them:

- Let nature take its course – Take no action except occasional mowing
- Control only certain weeds – Take mechanical or chemical steps to control the most invasive weeds

MECHANICAL WEED CONTROL

- Mowing native areas one to three times in the spring and/or fall is usually enough for weed control
- Hand digging, cutting, string trimming if few weed populations are low enough

CHEMICAL WEED CONTROL METHODS

- Use a non-selective herbicide to eliminate weeds before planting native/naturalized grasses to the area
- Remember that products that control non-desirable broadleaf weeds in the native grass area will also control or injure desirable broadleaf plants

PBI-GORDON WEED SOLUTIONS



Ornamec® 170 Grass Herbicide Ornamec® Over-the-Top Grass Herbicide

Controls grassy weeds such as crabgrass and foxtails



Vexis® Herbicide Granular

Spot treatment to control nutsedge



SpeedZone® EW Broadleaf Herbicide for Turf SpeedZone® Southern EW Broadleaf Herbicide for Turf

Broad-spectrum control of broadleaf weeds



TZone™ SE Broadleaf Herbicide for Tough Weeds

Broad-spectrum control of broadleaf weeds including ground ivy & wild violet
Yellow Nutsedge suppression



Surge® Broadleaf Herbicide for Turf

Broad-spectrum control of broadleaf weeds
Yellow Nutsedge suppression

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