

WEED REFERENCE

Dandelion, *Taraxacum officinale*

DESCRIPTION:

Dandelion is a hardy perennial with a thick, fleshy taproot and no stem. Leaves grow in a rosette from the crown. They are long, narrow, irregularly lobed, and lance shaped. The lobed tips are often opposite each other and pointing toward the crown. Leaves are often purple at the base and emit a milky latex when broken. The deep golden yellow flowers are borne in heads on long hollow stalks. Blossoms soon mature into spherical clusters of whitish fruits, like white puffballs, composed of parachute-like seeds. Seeds are carried by wind.



Type of plant:	broadleaf
Life cycle:	Perennial
Growth habit:	Bunch type
Aggressiveness (1-10 scale; 10=most aggressive):	7
Leaf attachment	whorled
Leaf color:	Dark green
Flower description:	Deep yellow, with only one flower per seed stalk
Seed description:	Spherical clusters that appear as white puffballs. The seed resembles a parachute
Reproduces by:	Seed, rootstock
U.S. states found in:	Throughout the U.S.
Countries found in:	Mexico, South and Central America, Africa, Europe, Asia
Golf course areas found in:	Tees, fairways, roughs, low maintenance areas

MONITORING:

Begin scouting when average air temperatures reach 55 F (13 C)

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MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES:

Always check labels to determine turfgrass sensitivity to herbicides.

Follow resistance management guidelines by rotating products as outlined in IPM Template Reference “Herbicide Resistance Management Groups.” Always consult the most recent version of all product labels before use.

TYPE	TIMING/ THRESHOLD	PRACTICE	
Cultural	N/A	Encourage healthy turf, mow regularly	
Biological			
Chemical	Pre-emerge: most effective when post-emerge herbicides are also part of the program	Active ingredient (example)	Label signal word
		Atrazine	Caution (restricted use)
		Isoxaben (Gallery)	Caution
		Metribuzin (Sencor)	Caution
		Simazine (Simazine)	Caution
	Post-emerge:	2,4-D (Barrage)	Caution
		Dicamba (Banvel)	Caution or Warning, depending on formulation
		mecoprop (MCP)	Caution to Danger, depending on formulation
		Triclopyr plus clopyralid mixture (Confront)	Danger