

A Can-Do Attitude for Weed Control

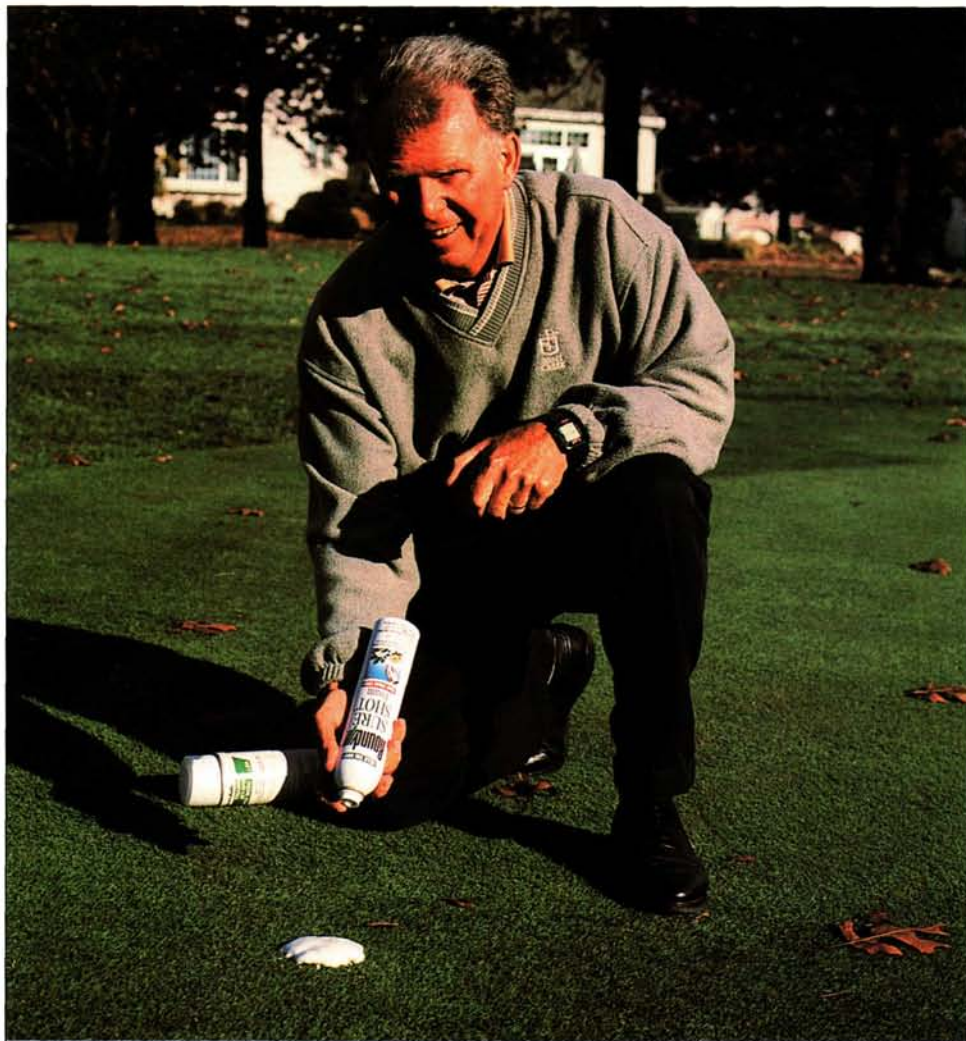
Constant attention to detail pays off in the long run.

BY STANLEY J. ZONTEK

Jim Loke, CGCS, Bent Creek Country Club (Pa.), spot-treats errant weeds while making his daily tour of the golf course.

How many times have you heard the term *attention to detail*? How many times has your golf course, in otherwise good condition, been criticized for a lack of *attention to detail* by someone because of a few weeds scattered about the golf course? It's hard to imagine that distractions like a few weeds are a sign that your *attention to detail* is not the best. How frustrating!

Small points of golf course conditioning can be difficult to address, especially with labor being so tight. The current economy and concerns about budgets only make the situation more difficult. For many superintendents, it is all they can do to keep the grass cut, watered, sprayed, and fertilized. Sometimes extra labor just is not available for small yet visible jobs, like controlling a few weeds. These weeds may detract



from how your course looks but not necessarily from how it plays.

This turf tip is an attempt to show how one golf course superintendent improves his attention to detail by controlling small yet obvious weeds that are visible on the golf course. You know the weeds. They seem to be the ones that defy control, the weeds adjacent to a tree, in a flowerbed, in the cracks of a cart path, or along a fence. Jim Loke, CGCS at the Bent Creek Country Club, Lititz, Pa., offers this turf tip.

Bent Creek Country Club is a relatively new golf course and is very well presented each day for the players. In touring Jim's golf course, everything seems to be in its place. Even those pesky weeds just are not there. How does he do it?

During his daily tour of the course, Jim carries aerosol cans filled with

herbicides, one being Roundup and the other a combination of 2,4-D, MCP, and Dicamba.

Here is the point. When Jim sees a weed, he stops and sprays it. In some cases, he does not even need to leave the vehicle. He sees the problem weeds, grabs the appropriate can, and sprays the weed. It's just that simple. Obviously, if you have an acre of weeds, fill up a sprayer and treat the area. But if you only have a few nuisance weeds, this is a quick and cost-effective way to tidy up the course. If these canned products are not available, a small pump-up 3-gallon sprayer will do the job. Give it a try, and encourage your assistants and other crew members to do the same.

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