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Weed Control Recommendations for Turfgrass Areas

by Jeff Lefton, Clark Throssell, and Zachary Reicher, Extension Specialists

Weed	Suggested time of application	Herbicides	Comments
1. Newly seeded turf:			
Crabgrass, foxtail	Can be applied at seeding time or on young seedling turf.	siduron [Tupersan]	Pre-emergent. Needs at least 1/2 inch of water within 3 days after the treatment. Short residual.
2. Established turf:			
Dandelion, buckhorn plantain broadleaf plantain	Fall-mid-September to early November. Spring-mid-April to mid-June.	2,4-D + dicamba (Banvel) 2,4-D + mecoprop (MCP) 2,4-D + dichlorprop (2,4-DP) [Weedone DPC] 2,4-D + mecoprop + dicamba [Trex-San, Trimec, Three-Way, etc.] 2,4-D + triclopyr (Turflon-D) 2,4-D + dichlorprop + dicamba [Super Trimec] MCP, MCPA + dicamba [Trimec Encore] chlorflurenol [Break-Thru] + triclopyr + dicamba triclopyr + clopyralid [Confront] MCPA, MCCP + dichlorprop [Weedestroy]	Post-emergent. Fall application usually the best. Apply when 65-85°F, good soil moisture and sunny skies. Apply to mature turf only. Avoid spray drift on non-target broadleaf plants.

Weed	Suggested time of application	Herbicides	Comments
Chickweed, henbit, white clover, heal-all, sheep (red) sorrel, curly dock, chicory, yellow rocket, speedwell, ground ivy, etc.	Fall mid-September to early November Spring-April to early May before flowering.	Same as above.	Same as above. Repeated spot treatments following the first application may be necessary for hard to control weeds. Use low volume for the repeat treatment.
Spurge, Oxalis, Knotweed. Purslane, Thistle, etc.	After plants have emerged in the spring or early summer.	2,4-D + dichlorprop (2,4-DP) [Weedone DPC] 2,4-D + triclopyr [Turflon-D] 2,4-D+ dichlorprop + dicamba [Super Trimec] chlorflurenol [Break Thru] + triclopyr + dicamba	Apply to young plants. Spot spraying at low volume preferred. A repeat treatment may be necessary. Volatilization and chemical drift need to be a concern when making applications near ornamentals, flowers, gardens and fruit trees.
Wild violet	Late spring at the time of flowering (May) or before the frost in the fall.	2,4-D + triclopyr [Turflon-D]	Post-emergent. Apply at low volume. Requires at least 2 years of treatment for control.
Wild onion/garlic	Spring	2,4-D ester	Apply after mowing the turf. Primarily burns back the tops—limited control. Spray during each of 2 successive springs; 2nd spring clean-up essential because plants regrowth from bulbs.
Nutsedge and wild onion/garlic	Read the label	imazaquin (Image)	Do not use on cool-season grasses; labelled for zoysia-grass and bermudagrass.
Lespedeza	Early summer	2,4-D + triclopyr [Turflon-D]	Low volume preferred.
Yellow nutsedge	When nutsedge is actively growing under good soil moisture conditions	bentazon [Basagran]	Thorough leaf coverage is essential. Apply at 10 to 14 day intervals if necessary. Do not apply more than 3 qts. / acre in one season. Delay mowing for at least 3 days. Repeate treatments may be necessary.
Yellow nutsedge, crabgrass and broadleaf weeds	Young weeds, moderate temperature and good soil moisture	2,4-D + MCPP + diacamba + MSMA [Trimec Plus] 2,4-D + MSMA	Best weed control - 70 to 80°F for KBG; 70 to 90°F bermuda-grass; good soil moisture; reduce discoloration by irrigating 24 hrs. after application.

Weed	Suggested time of application	Herbicides	Comments
Pre-emergent control of crabgrass, foxtail barnyardgrass, goosegrass and many other weeds	In southern Indiana before April 15 and in northern Indiana before May 15. Apply before: 1. Night temp. >65°F. 2. Day temp. consistent between 55 and 65°F. 3. Soil temp. 55-60°F for 7 to 10 days. 4. Moist seedbed	benefin [Balan] benefin + triflan [Team] bensulide [Betasan, Pre-San, Lescosan, Betamec] DCPA [Dacthal]* pendimethalin [Pre-M, Halts Weed grass control] oxadiazon [Ronstar]** oxadiazon + bensulide** [Goosegrass/Crabgrass Control] dithiopyr [Dimension] prodiamine (Barricade)	*DCPA (Dacthal) and oxadiazon (Ronstar) are labelled as pre-emergent's for sandbur. **Goosegrass control—it germinates 2 to 4 weeks after crabgrass. Control is difficult. Treat 6 weeks after crabgrass germinates.
Post-emergent control of crabgrass, goosegrass, foxtail, and barnyardgrass	Early stage of weed growth preferred. Application rate dependent on the stage of growth up to the 3 tiller stage.	fenoxaprop-ethyl [Acclaim]	Thorough coverage is important. Wait 2 days before and after treatment to mow. Some broadleaf herbicides nullify effectiveness — check the label. Suppressed bermudagrass.
Post-emergent control of crabgrass, foxtail, barnyardgrass, yellow nutsedge dallisgrass sandbur and oxalis	Apply to young, actively growing weeds during warm weather between 80 and 90°F. Do not apply to drought-stricken turf.	methanearsonate (MSMA, CMA, DSMA, AMA)	Thorough coverage important. Do no water turf for 24 hrs. after the application. Turfgrass may be temporarily discolored. Two or more repeat treatments at 14 day intervals may be needed.
Pre-emergent control of spurge and oxalis	Apply in the spring and again in 6 to 8 weeks.	pendimethalin [Pre-M, Weed grass Control, Halts] DCPA [Dacthal]	Treatments will help reduce the influx of spurge and oxalis. Complete control will require additional strategies.
Pre-emergent broadleaf control of white clover, purslane, knotweed, oxalis, chickweed, henbit and spurge.	Spring or late summer	isoxaben (Gallery)	Combine with pre-emergent crabgrass control product; requires 1/2 inch of moisture after the application; ornamental weed control product call Snapshot.

Weed	Suggested time of application	Herbicides	Comments
(Non-selective)			
Tall fescue clumps, bentgrass patches, nimblewell, bermudagrass, quackgrass, timothy	Apply when the target grass is actively growing and the soil moisture is good	glyphosate [Roundup, Kleenup] amitrole [Amitrole-T] dalapon	These herbicides will kill all weeds and other plants that are green at the time of spraying. Treated areas must be reseeded or sodded with desirable grasses. Amitrol and dalapon may persist up to 6 weeks. Glyphosate has no residual activity in the soil. However, it is suggested to wait 7 days before renovating the area. A repeat treatment may be necessary for complete control.
(Select)			
Tall fescue clumps	Apply when T.F. and desirable turf actively growing.	chlorsulfuron [Lesco TFC]	Selectively controls T.F. in cool-season grasses (except ryegrass); low volume preferred; irrigate with 1/2 inch of water after treatment; slowly eliminates T.F. over an 8 week period.
Annual bluegrass (<i>Poa annua</i>)	Spring & fall Early fall Fall	Growth regulators Pre-emergence herbicides Pre- & post-emergence herbicides	Refer to AY-41 <i>Control of Poa annua</i> for control strategies.

*No endorsement of named products by the author or Purdue University is intended, nor is criticism applied for products that are not mentioned. Follow closely the direction on the label. Many different formulations and combinations of these materials are sold under various trade names, and the quantity of use will vary with the formulation obtained.

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