



Pest Watch

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Weed Control

Early autumn is the best time to control broadleaf weeds in turf. Adequate moisture, warm days, and cool nights ensure vigorous weed growth. Under these conditions, postemergent herbicides work the best. Apply a two-way or three-way, broadspectrum herbicide at the labeled rate in late September or early October. Some weeds will die quickly. Others will appear only to be stunted, but will die next spring.

Autumn is also the time to assess the effectiveness of your weed control program. Map "hot spots" where weed pressure is high or where herbicides failed to provide full season coverage. Try to determine why weeds are present in these areas. If possible, correct any cultural or physical problems which predispose these sites to weed encroachment. Also, reevaluate your current weed control program and adjust it to better manage the weeds in these problem areas.

If you have had difficulty applying preemergent crabgrass control materials at the correct time in the spring, our research has shown that late fall (November) applications control crabgrass almost as well as standard spring applications. Ronstar has recently been labeled for this use. This option should only be considered if labor shortages or work loads in the spring prevent you from applying preemergent herbicides before crabgrass germinates.



Disease Control

This year has been an especially bad year for Pythium root rots on a number of turfgrass species. Should conditions become favorable in autumn (temperatures 40-50° F and prolonged moisture), severe outbreaks are likely to occur from September to November. Early to mid-autumn is the time to apply preventive fungicide treatments to control the early spring phase of the disease. For sites with a history of severe Pythium root rot problems in the early spring, applications of either Banol, Aliette, or Subdue in mid-October to early November have proven effective in reducing the severity in the spring. Fungicides should be applied before turf dormancy and should be watered-in for the most effective control.



Dr. Eric Nelson points out pink patch disease to students at the recent diagnostic course at Cornell



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