Crabgrass

Once again spring approaches, and with it – crabgrass. Preemergent herbicides should be applied before the Forsythia (yellow bells) completes its bloom. Several herbicides are available including benefin (Balan), bensulide (Betasan), DCPA (Dacthal), oxadiazon (Ronstar), pendimethalin (Halts or Pre-M), and the combination product of benefin + trifluralin (Team). The choice of which preemergent herbicide is difficult and will depend on the following: 1) cost; 2) formulation you prefer (granular or spray); 3) other weeds you wish to control; 4) turfgrass species to be treated; 5) longevity of control needed; and 6) seeding or overseeding restrictions. For assistance in planning your crabgrass control program, refer to your first issue of CUTT, Spring 1990, Volume one, Number one, for the article “Waging War on Crabgrass”.

Broadleaf Weeds

Spring is also the traditional season for postemergent control of broadleaf weeds. Fall is the preferred time for these treatments, but mid-spring (May) applications are also effective. Many products are available for broadleaf weed control, most containing 2,4-D with MCPP, dicamba, 2,4-DP, or triclopyr. In selecting from among the many formulations available, you should consider cost and how many of the “difficult-to-control” broadleaves, such as groundivy and healall, are to be targeted. Check the Cornell Recommends and the herbicide labels for lists of species controlled.

Joseph C. Neal
Associate Professor of Weed Science