Spring Weed Control Calendar

Mid- to Late March: Replenish mulch in landscape beds. If a preemergent herbicide is needed, apply this before replenishing mulch. If herbaceous ornamentals are present or will be planted later in the season, make your product selection carefully as many species may be injured by preemergent herbicides.

Mid- to Late April: Preemergent herbicide application for crabgrass control. See the Cornell Recommends and/or CUTT V.1(1) for the available options.

Mid-May: Postemergent herbicide applications for broadleaf weed control (if you did not do so in the fall). See CUTT V.1(3) and the Cornell Recommends for the available options.

Early Summer: Begin scouting for escaped crabgrass, emerging goosegrass, spurge, knotweed, oxalis, and nutsedge. For best results, make postemergent crabgrass control treatments when the weeds are young. Also, plan for nutsedge control treatments commencing in late June.

Weed Management in Herbaceous Ornamentals

Planning a weed management program where herbaceous ornamentals are present requires careful evaluation of all options before a herbicide is applied. Use mulches supplemented with manual removal. Where these measures have been inadequate, you may wish to select a herbicide. A new publication, Weed Management Guide for Herbaceous Ornamentals, by Andrew Senesac and Joseph Neal, is available to assist you in planning your weed management program in and around herbaceous ornamentals. This publication explains the options available, describes the registered herbicides, and contains tables of ornamental species registered as well as weeds controlled by each herbicide. If a herbicide is to be used, it is often desirable to plant only those ornamental species which are on the herbicide label. To this end, this publication should be consulted before you plant. Planning before you plant can help avoid weed management problems later in the season.

Weed Management Guide for Herbaceous Ornamentals sells for $1.25. To obtain a copy, write to Dr. Neal at the Dept. of Floriculture and Ornamental Horticulture, Cornell Univ., Ithaca NY 14853. All New York State Turfgrass Association members will be receiving a copy of this publication in the near future, compliments of NYSTA.

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