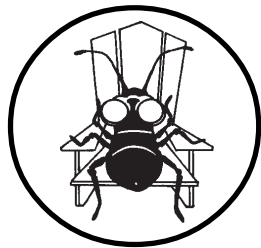


Weed Control Research Update



Pest Watch

When preemergent herbicide applications are made too early in the spring, the control runs out in mid-season; when applications are just a little late, no control is achieved.

Our research suggests that application timing for some products may be more flexible.

Late Fall Applications of Preemergent Herbicides Control Crabgrass

It is generally acknowledged that the optimum time to apply preemergent herbicides is one to two weeks before crabgrass emergence—about the time the forsythia is in full bloom. On Long Island or in the lower Hudson valley, this occurs about mid to late April. In upstate New York, the timing is a little later; between late April and mid-May (depending upon the local conditions and spring weather patterns. This is a busy time of year on golf course superintendents and for landscape managers; therefore, preemergent herbicides are often applied at the “wrong” times. When applications are made too early in the spring, the control runs out in mid-season; when applications are just a little late, no control is achieved.

However, our research and that from several other universities suggests that application timing for some products may be more flexible. Late fall applications of Barricade** (prodiamine) @ 1 lb/A and Dimension** (dithiopyr) at 0.5 lb/A were equally effective as spring treatments. Pendimethalin or Ronstar (oxadiazon) @ 3 lb/A, applied in the late fall were equal to spring applications in two of three tests. In the one test where control was better with spring applications, a mid-summer drought followed by rain stimulated a late flush of crabgrass germination, reducing the effectiveness of most treatments. The efficacy of Team (benefin + trifluralin) @ 2 lb/A and Dacthal (DCPA) @ 10.5

lb/A were consistently greater from spring rather than fall applications. Other research has suggested that Gallery** (isoxaben) may be more effective when applied in late fall, as compared to spring.

Currently, only Ronstar is specifically labeled for late fall applications for crabgrass control the following season. However, remember that under unfavorable conditions (too wet or too dry), full-season control may not be achieved regardless of the season of application. This will be more evident further south where the growing season (and the crabgrass germination season) is longer. Late emerging crabgrass can be controlled with MSMA or Acclaim (fenoxaprop).

**Note: at present, Barricade, Dimension, and Gallery are NOT labeled in New York.

Reference: Rossi, F.S., J.C. Neal, and A.F. Senesac. 1989. Comparison of Seasonal Herbicide Application Timings for Crabgrass (Digitaria spp.) Control in Cool-Season Turfgrass. Proceedings of the Weed Science Society of America 29: 34-35.

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**Cornell
Cooperative
Extension**

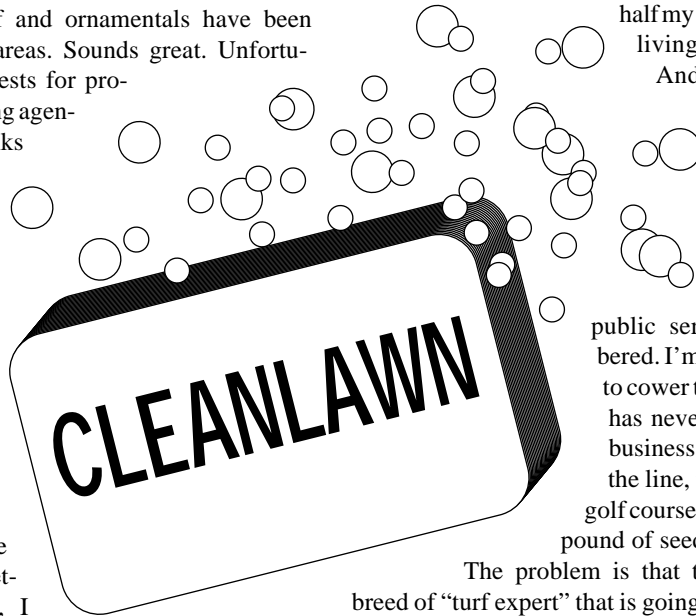
CORNELL UNIVERSITY TURFGRASS TIMES
20 Plant Science Building
Cornell University
Ithaca, NY 14853

Everyone's a Turf Expert

This message is for all of you who work hard every day maintaining quality turf for many to enjoy. Beware! There is an awful lot of grant money available these days for research and educational programs for alternative agriculture.

Recently, turf and ornamentals have been listed as priority areas. Sounds great. Unfortunately, many requests for proposals from granting agencies "encourage links to advocacy or environmental groups" or encourage these groups to apply.

Since I was considering applying for such a grant, someone at Cornell suggested that I involve an advocacy group to improve my chances of getting funded. So, I called such a group, and spent an hour on the phone with an individual from that group. I don't know what it was that made me snap. Maybe it was when she said that we need to wash our lawns, trees, etc. with soap. "Cleanliness is godliness," she said.



Wait a minute! I have eight years of college education in Agronomy, five years experience on a golf course, eleven years experience in extension which has demanded that I answer about 2,000 phone calls and make dozens of field visits every year. I have devoted over half my life learning and living this industry.

And I should ask someone like this for advice, just so I can get funded?

Maybe my days of public service are numbered. I'm just not willing to cower to someone who has never had their job, business or reputation on the line, never been on a golf course, much less put a pound of seed in the ground.

The problem is that this is the new breed of "turf expert" that is going to be receiving the grants (some with our tax dollars) to educate you and the public on a better way of maintaining turfgrass.

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Pest Watch

continued from back cover

Look For Winter Annual Broadleaves Now

This year I have been told by many turfgrass managers that crabgrass was particularly plentiful. This seems rather odd considering the cool moist weather we have had. One possible explanation is thin turf resulting from the 1991 drought. If you did not reseed and nurture the turf to maximum density—the logical outcome would have been crabgrass infestations. Once established, the crabgrass can effectively out-compete many turfgrasses, resulting in bare spots after the crabgrass is killed by frost.

The relatively early frost in some parts of New York killed the crabgrass in late September. I have seen an abundance of winter annual broadleaves germinating in such areas. Scout now for chickweed, corn speedwell, pineappleweed, and other

winter annuals which will be easier to control this fall before they get well established. You may even find some late germinating dandelion and clover seedlings. These may also be controlled in the fall.

I am often asked how late (in the fall) you can wait to apply broadleaf herbicides. I have had success applying three-way mixtures of 2,4-D + MCPP + dicamba as late as mid-November in a mild season in Ithaca, NY. As long as you are still mowing the grass, the herbicides will be effective. However, keep in mind that you may not see symptoms until spring, and that control of some species may not be as good as if you applied the herbicide in September or October—the preferred application time in New York.

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