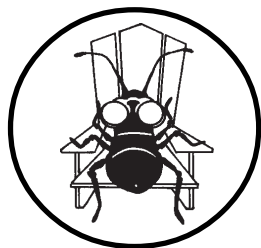


Weed Control Research Update



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.

JOSEPH C. NEAL,
DEPT. OF FLORICULTURE AND ORNAMENTAL HORTICULTURE

Pest Watch continues on page 7



**Cornell
Cooperative
Extension**

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