

## Handling crabgrass, kudzu

A pair of interesting questions came in on weed control. The first reader asked,

**Q** ■ *"Do you know of a chemical control similar to Drive that can be applied to lawns in a granular form?"*

The second faces a problem common throughout the South.

**Q** ■ *"I need help killing kudzu. Can you give me some advice?"*

We referred these two questions to Joseph C. Neal, professor and extension specialist in weed science at North Carolina State University.

In response to the first, he says the answer depends upon what you are using Drive to control. Drive (quinclorac) is a postemergence herbicide, unique in that it controls both crabgrass and many broadleaf weeds.

There are granular formulations of 2,4-D + MCPP, Confront (clopyralid + tri-clopyr), and others that control broadleaf weeds. However, there are no granular herbicides for postemergence control of crabgrass. [One exception, Neal notes, is that granular formulations of Dimension can control very young seedling crabgrass, up to the 4-leaf stage.]

"We have tested granular formulations of Drive that worked fairly well on broadleaf weeds but less well on crabgrass," Neal says. He says he knows of no commercially available granular formulation of Drive.

Good news for our reader with kudzu.

Neil says that once you decide to kill kudzu, it is actually fairly easy to control.

The secret to success is perseverance.

Kudzu produces large storage roots that can continue to sprout even after the top of the plant looks dead. Regardless of which control method you choose, you must be prepared for a multi-year battle to defeat this invasive foe.

Many herbicides are effective on kudzu. Neal lists just a few that he says he believes to have the broadest applicability in landscape management (if this were a forest site, his answers would be different). Selective broadleaf herbicides containing clopyralid (Lontrel, Transline, Confront) are probably the most effective alternative.

Treat the new growth in the spring and re-apply as new growth emerges. Non-selective herbicides containing glyphosate, such as Roundup-Pro, Glyfos, Target, and others are also effective.

If you do not wish to use herbicides, mowing and grazing are also effective. Mowing is effective if you mow the entire infestation frequently (about every two weeks during the growing season). Grazing is also an option. Recent work has shown that two seasons of grazing with goats can nearly eradicate an infestation.