

“Take it to Hart” by Gerald Henry and Dr. Stephen Hart

Dr. Stephen Hart is an Assistant Extension Specialist in the Plant Science Dept. at Cook College/Rutgers University. Gerald Henry is a graduate student at Rutgers University

You can ask Dr. Hart your weed questions by e-mailing him at sfmanjchapter@netscape.net

Question: We have a lot of white clover on our soccer field. We would like to treat the clover with a herbicide to get rid of it. The problem is the geese have it chewed off to the point where I am concerned that a herbicide that depends on available leaf surface will be less than effective. What can we do?

Answer: White clover, *Trifolium repens* L., is one of the most difficult broadleaf weeds to control in athletic fields. White clover has adapted to survive under moist soil conditions, low nitrogen fertility, soil acidity, and low mowing heights. White clover reproduces by seed (pods) and the rooting of creeping above ground stems (stolons).

The first step in avoiding weed encroachment is to maintain a healthy, dense, vigorous stand of turf. White clover is a legume whose presence in turf usually signifies a nitrogen deficient soil. Applying nitrogen at a rate of 2 - 3 lbs N/1000 sq. ft over one growing season should alleviate this problem. White clover has a shallow root system that is highly susceptible to drought. Proper water management during periods of dry weather can help reduce white clover populations. Also, maintain a soil pH of at least 6.0 with 6.5 to 6.7 being preferred.

White clover is most susceptible to the herbicides clopyralid, MCPP/MCPA, and dicamba. Of these three, clopyralid (a component of Confront herbicide) is probably the most effective. Clopyralid will also be taken up by the roots of white clover and would be the best herbicide to use in situations where the clover has been recently mowed or the foliage has been eaten by geese. Herbicide treatments for white clover control should be made prior to (mid-spring) or following flowering (fall). ▲

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“Rutgers Economic Survey”

Rutgers recently mailed out an Economic Survey to many businesses such as Sod Farms & Golf Courses; municipalities such as DPW, Parks & Rec Depts.; schools such as Building & Grounds; and Commercial business in the Green Industry.

If your business or town received a survey Please, Please take the time to fill it out and send it back.

WHY? This survey is very important to the Green Industry. The study will show the economic importance of turfgrass to industry leaders, policy-makers and the general public. Specific objectives are to:

1. Estimate the size of the turfgrass industry by sector
2. Characterize the nature of NJ's turfgrass industry for use by industry professionals.
3. Evaluate factors that will shape the future of the turfgrass industry, including population dynamics, development, state policies, industry consolidation, water regulation, image, policy support, and environmental factors.
4. To create a resource inventory for use by industry, Rutgers will develop GIS maps to identify locations of major demand units.
5. In order to allow industry to strategically plan for its future, 10 year projections of demand for services and products will be developed. ▲

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