

Fertilizer Burn

Some fertilizers will severely burn turf under certain conditions. Nitrogenous fertilizer materials can be classified into three groups. They include:

- Inorganic chemical compounds
- Natural organics
- Ureaform compounds

Natural organics and ureaform compounds are relatively safe and do not burn the turf. The Inorganic compounds commonly called chemical fertilizer contain ammonium sulphate and ammonium nitrate, or synthetics such as urea and cyanamid. These materials are highly water soluble and convert quickly into ammonia and nitrates. When any of these materials are applied to turf, they will cause severe burning, unless watered in promptly.



Poor Weed Control Application

This photo shows what can happen when an inexperienced operator applies weed control chemicals. The dark strips are where the operator missed. Accuracy of application is extremely important. The best and most expensive spray equipment is worthless without a trained operator. Calibrations, pressures, width of boom, and speed of travel are all inter-related. Training the operator is as important as selecting the chemical.

Only when all these factors are considered, can one be assured of a good weed control program.

Over \$75 million is spent annually on chemicals for turfgrass maintenance.

Keep up to date on how to use them properly. Follow label instructions, attend regional conferences, and read *Weeds Trees and Turf*.