

Control wild garlic with fall applications

What's more irritating to someone paying for weed control than the sight of wild garlic poking up through dormant grass? Perhaps only having to apply and re-apply herbicides during the season to keep the weed under control.

The wild garlic that poses a problem to homeowners and professional turf managers can create a profit for professional turf managers. When offered as an add-on service to customers, wild garlic control can boost fall revenues.

The program is simple. As lawns are treated during the spring and summer, scout for wild garlic.

When fall approaches, point out the weed to customers. Explain that—because wild garlic isn't a problem in every yard—treatment is offered on an as-needed basis.

Remind customers of the irritating, unsightly green sprouts that stick up through the uniformly brown lawn all winter. Then let them know that wild garlic can now be controlled with a



G. Euel Coats, Ph.D., and former graduate student Doug Anderson check plots they treated to define the purple nutsedge and wild garlic activity of Image herbicide.

new, environmentally sound product. Image herbicide, from American Cyanamid, has been proven effective

against wild garlic on warm-season turfgrasses in a single application. Bob Deems, a Ph.D. who is in



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charge of turf research at American Cyanamid, explains what customers should expect from an application:

1. One treatment provides essentially year-long control.

2. Image works very slowly. Expect to have wild garlic showing for some time, even weeks, after treatment.

3. If mowed two weeks after treatment, wild garlic won't grow any taller, so it won't be as unsightly as untreated weeds.

November applications of Image have provided 80 percent or better control of wild garlic, according to G. Euel Coats, Ph.D., scientist and professor with the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Experiment Station at Mississippi State University.

Coats has tested the product on golf courses and university plots. He reports consistent control of wild garlic and notes reduced populations in the year following a single application.

"Image should be applied after the warm-season turfgrass is dormant, and while wild garlic is actively growing. Pre-emergence applications are not effective," Coats says. "Above-ground shoots stop growing above the turf two to three weeks following application. How-

ever, in some tests, control wasn't apparent for six or seven weeks.

"Wild garlic control with Image herbicide is definitely better than with 2,4-D or combination products we've been using," Coats notes.

Ray Dickens, Ph.D., professor of turf management at Auburn University, has also researched wild garlic control.



These plots, treated with Image herbicide in November 1985, show control 16 months after treatment.

"We've tested Image on four of the major southern turfgrasses, Bermudagrass, zoysiagrass, St. Augustinegrass and centipedegrass. All four tolerated it very well," Dickens says.

"In most cases, if you can control wild garlic before it forms reproductive stems, or bulblets, you can reduce populations in subsequent years," explains Dickens. "Image is a viable alternative to the phenoxyes in a lot of situations."

Image, registered for use on fine turf earlier this year, is part of a new chemical family. Easily absorbed by most plants, Image moves throughout the plant, including the roots.

It inhibits production of a vital plant enzyme necessary for growth. Weeds stop growing within hours of application, then use up food reserves and die.

Warm-season turf species are able to metabolize the product before it causes damage. Image is registered for use on Bermudagrass, zoysiagrass, centipedegrass and St. Augustinegrass. The active ingredient, imazaquin, is essentially non-toxic to mammals, fish, birds, insects and soil organisms. **LM**

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