

Gallery for weed control

Problem: *How good is Gallery herbicide for weed control? We understand that a fall application of this will control many weeds. (Washington, D.C.)*

Solution: Gallery 75 Dry Flowable is a pre-emergence herbicide manufactured by DowElanco. It is labelled for use on turfgrass and landscape ornamentals. This selective herbicide contains a new chemical compound, isoxaben, which controls annual grass and 44 broadleaf weeds, including chickweed, henbit, plantain, purslane, oxalis, spurge and white clover.

Reports do indicate that a fall application of Gallery can control winter and summer annuals until the end of June. It has no post-emergence activity. Apply Gallery in late summer to early fall, or in early spring, prior to germination of target weeds. Reports indicate that to manage the weeds throughout the summer, the late fall application should be followed with an early spring application. If the application is done in the spring, it should suppress weeds throughout summer.

Gallery can be used on warm- and cool-season turfgrass. Established turf may be reseeded in the fall after a spring application of Gallery. Gallery is reportedly compatible and can be tank mixed with other herbicides registered for use on turfgrass. Gallery is stable on the soil surface for up to 21 days. To be effective, it must be activated with 0.5 inches of rainfall or irrigation.

Read and follow label specifications for better results.

Mountain turfgrasses

Problem: *We have had problems establishing lawns in mountain areas, about 100 miles southwest of Charlotte. What kind of grass would you recommend for planting? (North Carolina)*

Solution: Try using a mixture of two improved turf-type tall fescue varieties (45 percent each) and a Kentucky bluegrass (10 percent).

Properly cultivate and grade the intended seed bed. Consider a soil test by your cooperative extension service, and follow its recommendations for any corrections of pH or other factors.

March is the ideal time to incorporate phosphorus since surface-applied phosphorus does not move in soil.

Use clean, certified seeds with good germination rates. Using a rotary or drop spreader, spread half of the recommended rate of the seed mixture in one direction, and the other half in the opposite direction for the most uniform coverage.

Gently pull a leaf rake upside down over the seeded area. It is important to maintain seed and soil contact for proper germination and establishment. Then, spread straw (not hay) mulch, no more than 1/2-inch thick, over the seeded area. Keep this area moist but not wet throughout the germination and establishment period.

Tall fescue will germinate within a week. The

bluegrass may take two to three weeks to germinate. Germination and establishment depends on adequate moisture. Therefore, it may take a long time under certain conditions. If at all possible, delay the pre-emergence and post-emergence herbicide application until the turf established well. Maintain the turf through proper plant health care practices, such as proper watering and fertilizing and pest management as needed.

Diplodia: a refresher

Problem: *Do you have information on diplodia tip blight, especially as found on Austrian pine? (Ontario, Canada)*

Solution: Diplodia tip blight disease, caused by *diplodia pinea* (*Sphaeropsis ellisii*), can be found on two- to three-needled pines such as Scotch, Austrian, mugo and ponderosa.

Affected plants generally produce resin droplets at the base of the needles as the first sign of the disease. During spring, emerging needles turn brown at the base. Later, the entire needle turns brown.

Quite often the candles produced during the infection year will be completely killed. If conditions for the disease are favorable, the second and third year's new growth will also be killed. As a result, there will be little or no new healthy tissue being maintained over several years. Valuable trees should be maintained with a proper plant health care program: proper watering, fertilizing, mulching and pest management as needed.

Where practical, removing two-year-old cones and selective pruning of affected plant parts when dry is extremely beneficial in reducing the inoculum and further spread of the disease. Susceptible trees also can be protected by applying approved fungicides. It is important to provide the first treatment prior to the candle emergence from the sheath. Then repeat the treatments two to three times at seven- to 10-day intervals. During rainy periods, shorter intervals are needed.



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Questions should be mailed to Problem Management, LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT, 7500 Old Oak Boulevard, Cleveland, OH 44130. Please allow 2-3 months for an answer to appear in the magazine.