

## Herbicide timing in tall fescue

*In our area, some people do the fall seeding of tall fescue lawns during September, October and November. How safely can we apply a pre-emergence herbicide like pendimethalin during the following spring to control smooth crabgrass? What can we expect?*

—NORTH CAROLINA



**BALAKRISHNA RAO**  
 Manager of Research and  
 Technical Development  
 for the Davey Tree Co.  
 Kent, Ohio

As a general rule, turfgrass that has been recently seeded should not be treated with pre-emergence herbicides like pendimethalin. Applications should be avoided until the turfgrass produces good density and has been mowed at least four times at regular cutting height and mowing frequency. You can use Tupersan herbicide on newly-seeded lawns without any problems.

Researchers at the University of Georgia evaluated the response of fall-seeded tall fescue during September, October and November to spring-applied (Feb. 28th) pendimethalin. They found that tall fescue seeded during September or October had excellent density without showing any adverse effect of pre-emergence herbicide application in the spring. However, they found a significant reduction in density with a November seeding period as a result of immature turfgrass plants.

Another option is to delay the pre-emergent application as late as possible in the spring and apply products like Dimension, which will work as a pre-emer-

gence and an early post-emergence crabgrass management tool.

In some situations, you can best manage the crabgrass through a split application program where you use one-half of the product early in the spring and then follow with the other half about six weeks later. For additional details on the rates and specific directions, refer to label guidelines.

You can also consider skipping the entire pre-emergent application in the early spring. Instead, start monitoring the crabgrass seedlings as they germinate and begin to emerge. When they are at the two- to three-leaf stage, you can manage using post-emergence herbicides like Acclaim, DSMA or MSMA (Daconate 6, Lescos MSMA 6.6). Some of these may produce discoloration of desirable turfgrass. Therefore, become familiar with the product on a small scale before using in your programs.

Where feasible, you can also skip the application of pre-emergent for crabgrass management during the first year of establishment.

Read and follow label specifications for better results.

## Pine needle scale

*When and how do we control scale on pine needles?*

—NEW YORK

The pine needle scale attacks pine, spruce and occasionally hemlock, fir and taxus. Most severely affected are Austrian,

Scotch, white, red and mugho pines, and white and blue spruces.

This sedentary insect sucks large amounts of plant juices, turning the needles yellow and causing them to drop prematurely. If left uncontrolled, infestations can stunt and gradually kill branches and entire trees.

Pine needles may appear nearly white when heavily infested with pine needle scale, an elongated insect one-tenth of an inch long, white with a yellow spot at one end.

During the fall, purple-red eggs are deposited beneath the white female covering; these eggs overwinter and hatch in late May (when lilac is in full bloom), and the reddish crawlers emerge from under the mother covering. Crawlers migrate to the new growth and, once established, do not move again. In about seven weeks, this first brood matures and produces a second generation in late July. This brood matures in October and lays eggs which overwinter.

Apply 2% horticultural oil during mid-June and again in mid-September. These dates are targeted against second-instar scales which have had a chance to settle down, but before they develop hard protective cover (testa). It is easier to manage the scales at this time.

LM

### SEND YOUR QUESTIONS TO:

"Ask the Expert"  
 Landscape Management  
 7500 Old Oak Blvd.  
 Cleveland, OH 44130

Please allow two to three months for an answer to appear in the magazine.