

Post-emergence grass control

Is there a product or practice which can help manage weedy grasses in Kentucky bluegrass, ryegrass and fine fescue lawns once they have germinated?

—INDIANA

You may be dealing with annual grassy weeds or perennial grassy weeds. For annual grassy weeds, like crabgrass, post-emergence herbicides such as Daconate-6, Acclaim or Dimension can be used. Ideally, these products should be applied when annual weedy grasses are very young.

Since Dimension has both pre- and post-emergence activity, it can be applied during the period of germination. After germination, until about the six-leaf stage, Acclaim has given the best results in our field studies. Once the plants begin to tiller, the treatment response may vary, depending on the type of product, air temperature and other factors.

In addition to chemical management, it is also beneficial to provide good cultural practices such as mowing, watering, fertilizing and pest management—as needed—to improve the health of desirable turfgrass.

Other groups of grassy weeds include perennial plants, such as coarse or tall fescue and quackgrass. For tall fescue management, consider using Lesco TFC selective herbicide. Reports indicate that TFC treatments in the fall give the best results. Another option is to ei-

ther mechanically hand-dig the tall fescue clumps or spot-treat them with Roundup or Finale, and then overseed the area.

For weeds such as quackgrass, there is no selective herbicide. Digging and removing is not practical because the quackgrass has rhizomatous underground stems. It is very prolific and difficult to remove the roots. Portions of the plant can produce new growth. So instead of treating just the plant, it is a good idea to treat a large, heavily infested area with Roundup or Finale. Be aware that these herbicides will kill every green plant which they contact. Also, caution should be taken while applying these herbicides. If the herbicide comes in contact with your shoes, it could be carried to other parts of the property. Quite often, plants like quackgrass with underground rhizomatous growth habits may require a follow-up treatment 7 to 10 days later.

Once the treatment is satisfactory, (after 7 to 10 days), prepare the treated area for seeding and seed it with desirable compatible grass mixture or blends.

Always read and follow label specifications for best results.

Tiny trees a vexation

We are finding young seedlings of maple and oaks in lawns. What can be done to get rid of these?

—OHIO

The wet spring we have had in the Northeast supported the germination of maple and oak seeds. Seedlings can be man-

aged either mechanically or chemically.

They can be pulled by hand, which would be laborious and time consuming. Instead, mow the yard at the proper height and frequency. Since these plants are young, once the terminal bud is removed, they tend to die off.

Another approach is to use any of the common broadleaf herbicides applied on lawns that contain 2,4-D, dicamba or MCPP.

Two for nutsedge

What can we use to manage serious problems with nutsedge in lawns?

—LOUISIANA

Consider using selective herbicides such as Image or Manage. Purple nutsedge is most common in your area, but these products are registered to help manage both yellow and purple nutsedge.

Provide treatments when the nutsedge is in the 8- to 10-leaf stage and provide the second application 8 to 10 weeks later, as needed. These products are post-emergent and will help manage the weeds that are active at the time of application, but they will not help manage the germinating seeds of nutsedge. Therefore, if nutsedge is severe in some lawns, additional treatments may be needed in subsequent years.

Maintain good cultural practices, particularly mowing to help reduce future weed seeds.

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