

Keeping dandelions down

While there are numerous arguments to support preemergence weed control methods, there is perhaps none as persuasive as the dandelion. A perennial, this broadleaf weed is the bane of lawn care operators and customers everywhere.

The thick taproot of the dandelion, often several feet deep, is so extensive that to stop the plant from growing, it is necessary to destroy the root—making it very difficult to control the weed postemergently.

In the past, dandelions and other broadleaf weeds were controlled by postemergence herbicides. Unfortunately, this method has its limitations. For one thing, timing is critical; failing to spray weeds at the correct time during the growing season can reduce control. Postemergence herbicides are also ineffective at certain times of the year and tend to be less effective as the weeds mature. Postemergence control often leaves a dying weed and, eventually, a bare spot in the turfgrass, which allows room for more weeds.

Technology in recent years has introduced the option of a preemergence broadleaf weed control. This offers several advantages. Preemergence control:

▶ Stops weeds from emerging, so homeowners don't com-

plain about uncontrolled weeds.

▶ Can save turf and ornamental professionals money by reducing "callbacks" for weed break throughs which cost approximately \$50 per callback.

▶ Reduces herbicide application trips across the turf—possibly saving up to two or three applications otherwise used for postemergence application.

▶ Partial or season-long control provided by the preemergence option can reduce labor and allow lawn care professionals to shift work to other tasks.

▶ Reduces weed seed populations by controlling weeds before flowering and seeding. Eliminating seed populations before they have a chance to develop means fewer weeds to worry about in the future.

▶ Contributes to turf vigor because protected turf no longer competes with aggressive, broadleaf weeds for water and nutrients. In addition, it remains unmarred by repeated postemergent spraying.

For the most consistent, proven preemergent broadleaf weed control, there really is only one choice: Gallery* herbicide from DowElanco. What makes Gallery unique is isoxaben, a new class of chemistry approved for use on most established cool-season and warm-season turfgrasses, as well as 400 ornamentals. Once isoxaben is activated, it sets up a "weed prevention zone" in the top few inches of soil, controlling weeds before they break the surface.

A single application at .66 to 1.33 pounds of product per acre provides up to eight months of control against stubborn broadleaf weeds like chickweed,

henbit and even the dreaded dandelion. One fall application of Gallery before weed germination prevents the growth of 95 species of broadleaf weeds for up to eight months.

Gallery can be applied in either spring or fall depending on the desired weed(s) to be controlled.

Apply Gallery two to three weeks before weed seeds germinate. Since soil temperature determines germination times, a soil thermometer can be a helpful indicator.

Once weeds germinate and begin to grow, they waste no time robbing turf of moisture, sunlight and nutrients. That's why lawn care and landscape professionals increasingly rely on Gallery herbicide to stop broadleaf weeds across the country.

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