

Bermuda vs. Zoysia

I have several meyer zoysia lawns that I maintain which have hybrid Bermuda spots in them. Is there any herbicide that will suppress or eradicate the Bermuda without harming the zoysia?

—GEORGIA

Bermudagrass competes with zoysiagrass under high light intensity and good cultural management practices. This is a particularly serious problem when establishing zoysiagrass from sprigs and sod-plugs. Bermudagrass invasion can eventually lead to an undesirable lawn or other turfgrass areas. In these extreme cases, one option is to use a non-selective herbicide such as Roundup, Finale or Scythe herbicide to kill everything and start all over again. This is time consuming, expensive, and a last resort.

An alternative approach to suppress or eradicate Bermudagrass from zoysiagrass is also time consuming. Reports from the University of Georgia indicate that the use of selective herbicides such as Acclaim or Fusilade has provided excellent suppression of common Bermudagrass. When the mixed stand was treated for two consecutive years with Fusilade at 0.2 kg/hectare during mid-May and again at 0.1 kg/ha one month later, the common Bermudagrass cover was reduced from 35% to 7%, and the zoysiagrass cover increased from 65% to 85%. Similar results were obtained when Acclaim was applied at 0.2 kg/ha in mid-

May and repeated at monthly intervals for a total of four applications each year for two consecutive years. These herbicides may discolor both turfgrass types. Zoysiagrass should recover after 10-14 days.

If you have never treated this way before, test it in a small area before doing a large lawn. Refer to the label. Fusilade's label suggests using 3-4 oz/AC with a non-ionic surfactant during late spring, and then repeating 28-30 days later. During the summer months, you can reduce the rate to 2-3 oz/AC.

Fusilade is a systemic herbicide. It is foliar and root absorbed. Therefore, delay watering until the material has had a chance to dry. Repeat applications at one month intervals, 2-3 times or until the undesirable Bermudagrass disappears. Generally it takes about 14 days to see suppression develop.

For best results, avoid treating moisture stressed lawns. If possible, advise the customer to pre-water the lawns prior to treating. This will help improve the end result.

Read and follow label specification for additional details.

Spruce galls are galling

What is the best way to manage pineapple-like galls on spruce? We have had poor luck with this pest.

—PENNSYLVANIA

Spruce plants may get two types of galls caused by adelgids. These are commonly referred to as Cooley spruce gall aphids or Eastern spruce gall

aphids. They are not true aphids. The Cooley spruce gall adelgid infests the tips of branch terminals and causes the tips to swell, producing the pineapple-like gall you are referring to. The Eastern spruce gall adelgid typically produces galls at the base of shoot terminals.

The nymphs hatch in the spring and feed at the base of growing needles. This causes the swelling which envelops the feeding nymphs. The resulting galls can be cut open longitudinally to see the chambers and the nymphs. In the mid-summer, an opening at the base of the affected needles will allow the nearly-mature nymphs to exit and finish their life cycles.

On occasion, the very young galls may mimic phenoxy herbicide injury symptoms. If it is related to lawn-applied herbicides no insect will be associated with the distorted terminals. However, a plant may have both problems and in that case insects may be found.

Cooley spruce gall adelgids can be managed by cultural means. If the infestation is not severe, selective pruning and/or hand picking the galls and discarding may be sufficient. More severe problems may be treated with Sevin or Merit soil injections. Application of Sevin in March/April and again in November/December or soil injection of Merit insecticide in October should help manage the problem.

Read and follow label specifications for best results. **LM**



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