

## Killing weeds in juniper beds

*I have a problem with weeds and bermudagrass coming up through juniper beds. A local supplier told me that there is no postemergent herbicide that would kill the intruders without harming the juniper. They recommended that I go to a preemergent program. This may help keep the weeds down, but what about the bermudagrass? I suppose this is actually a two-fold problem. What do you suggest?*

- NC

Perhaps your local supplier is not familiar with Vantage herbicide manufactured by BASF. Vantage is a selective, broad spectrum, postemergent herbicide used to manage annual and perennial grassy weeds in turf, ornamentals and other specific areas.

For bermudagrass in juniper beds, Vantage can be applied without harming the junipers. Use about three fl. oz. of Vantage per one gallon of water. This should also help manage annual grasses from 6 - 12 inches in height as well as quackgrass, another difficult perennial grassy weed.

For better results, consider using two applications of Vantage. Make the first application when the bermudagrass begins growing in the spring. Apply the second treatment after the treated bermudagrass turns red and new growth begins to emerge. Follow label specifications for best results.

Vantage is selective to grassy plants, so be careful

when applying near desirable grass plants. Drift can also injure the flowers of flowering plants, however, BASF representatives indicate that injury is temporary and new blooms will not be affected. When applying Vantage in sensitive areas, consider using a deflector at the end of the spray nozzle to divert the spray away from non-target areas.

Vantage can be mixed with preemergent herbicides such as Surflan AS, if desired. Refer to the labels of both Vantage and Surflan for specific information as use sites and weeds managed.

## Ground ivy problem

*Ground ivy creeps into lawns from adjacent areas. We have been using three-way mixtures of 2,4-D, dicamba and MCPP, with varied results. Any other options?*

- WV

Ground ivy can present a serious problem if it is not managed properly. The plants produce new growth wherever their stems come in contact with the ground. The three-way mixture of 2, 4-D, Dicamba and MCPP should work reasonably well. However, sometimes this perennial weed may be difficult to manage with a few applications. Ground ivy is considered to have "intermediate" susceptibility to the above mixture in some situations. That may explain why you are getting variable results.

Consider using products such as Turflon-II or confront. Read and follow label.

## Garlic & onion control

*How do I manage wild garlic and onion weeds in lawns? We have difficulty managing them with our regular program. We have used Trimec 899/3-Way with sporadic results. Appreciate your comments.*

- MI

Both wild garlic and onion are difficult to manage. However, repeated applications of herbicides such as 2,4-D ester should help manage the weeds. 2,4-D ester is a selective, post-emergent herbicide. This means the target weeds, such as garlic and onions, must be actively growing. This product will not help you manage the weeds as a preemergent. A common problem is timing. If you apply herbicide treatments when the weeds are not present, your application will not have any effect on weeds.

Use caution when applying products such as 2,4-D ester herbicides near non-target desirable plants (vegetable garden plants, flowering plants, etc.) Ester formulations can volatilize and drift to nearby plants and cause injury. Therefore, avoid treating during windy conditions.

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

*Next month: a look at mycorrhizae fungus products.*



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