

Early Summer Weed Control
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1. Postemergence weed control during high temperatures - Wet weather has encouraged an increase in broadleaf weeds in turf. Control involves good management to promote a dense, vigorous turf that competes with weeds. Use a tall mowing height of three inches to reduce seed germination and to shade out weed seedlings.

September is the best month to control broadleaf perennial weeds with herbicides. If herbicides are used during summer, read label directions for temperature ranges within which to apply. Hot temperatures will increase damage potential to non-target plants. Whenever used, spot applications are best as they result in the smallest amount of herbicide being used; saving money and protecting the environment. Read and follow label directions. Labels are the law and herbicides should not be used outside of recommended temperature ranges.

2. Second preemergence crabgrass applications, if needed, are typically made about six weeks after the first application. A second application may be needed if the first application was applied prior to late April; or in turf with a history of severe crabgrass issues. This year, cool spring temperatures may have delayed crabgrass seed germination and application made prior to late April may lose effectiveness by the time much crabgrass seed germinates. Our above average rainfall may have also reduced the period of control of initial applications. For more information about improving crabgrass control read the following at the UNL Turf management web site: http://turf.unl.edu/turfinfo/April_8_maximizing_efficacy%20of%20PREES.pdf

3. Postemergence crabgrass control can be achieved with herbicides. Preemergence herbicides are generally more effective and should be considered in areas with a history of crabgrass. Mowing at 3 inches dramatically reduces the risk of crabgrass infestation. Crabgrass that does germinate in non-treated areas, or even in areas that were treated with a PRE, can be controlled with herbicides containing quinclorac, mesotrione, and fenoxaprop. Dithiopyr is a PRE that has postemergence activity on young crabgrass. For all herbicides, control is much more effective on young/small crabgrass plants. Be careful applying herbicides when air temperatures are greater than 85°F and never mix fenoxaprop with 2,4-D to reduce the risk of damage to the desirable lawn grasses. UNL Extension has a Nebguide that can give you more information. <http://turf.unl.edu/NebGuides/Crabgrasscontrolhomelawn2010b.pdf>.

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