



CRABGRASS AND ITS CONTROL



Crabgrass seedling

Crabgrass is the most common annual weed grass that invades lawns. It can almost completely take over lawns if left untreated. This annual grass grows from seed and produced the previous year. The crabgrass plant is an annual. It will go to seed and die by September. By late June, wide light green leaves can be seen emerging through the bluegrass turf. At this early growth stage, a selective post-emergent herbicides can be applied. The most effective products contain the selective herbicide called quinclorac. Quinclorac is often one part of lawn herbicide products that also contain three broadleaf herbicides. Other post-emergent crab grass herbicides contain dithiopyr or fenoxprop p-ethyl

Forsythia Shrub in full bloom



As an effective cultural control is to mow your lawn no shorter than 3 inches. This will help the bluegrass turf to better compete with crabgrass. Also fertilize at least twice, in early June and late October.

Control is primarily accomplished by using a pre-emergent herbicide at the correct time in mid-April. A more precise time is when the Forsythia scrub is in full bloom with its brightly colored yellow flowers. At this time the crabgrass seeds are also just coming out of dormancy and are therefore most vulnerable to pre-emergent herbicides. It is necessary to water the herbicide into the turf unless rain is forecasted.

Since April is not an advisable time to put down fertilizer it is advised that you use crabgrass per-emergent herbicide that does not include fertilizer. Fertilizing the lawn at this time and two to three additional times can culture lawn diseases. When you see some clumps of crabgrass, you can easily pullout this very shallow rooted grass and therefore keep it from spreading. Otherwise, note a map of the area of infestation and only use the per-emergent crabgrass killer in those areas next spring so as to minimize its use.

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