

## Controlling crabgrass, Bermuda grass and nutsedge in your lawn



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## Three weeds

- ▶ We will work from the easiest to the most difficult
  - Crabgrass
  - Bermuda
  - Nutsedge

## First - your flowers, ornamentals...

- ▶ Grass control not too difficult
- ▶ The use of glyphosate is difficult (round-up)

## Grass herbicides for your garden/shrubs/flowers

- ▶ Grass-b-gone,
- ▶ Over the top,
- ▶ Ornamec
- ▶ or Poast
  
- ▶ Controls grasses when a broadleaf is present

## Your lawn



## Your Lawn

- ▶ Perennial grass of some type
  - Perennial ryegrass
  - Kentucky Bluegrass
  - Tall Fescue
  - Fine fescue
  - Bentgrass
  - Others???
- ▶ Generally **cool-season** grasses

## Your Lawn

- ▶ Perennial grass of some type
  - Just breaking dormancy,
  - Maybe thinking of your first mowing
- ▶ Why the choice
  - What you bought
  - High traffic area
  - Lots of shade
  - Drought tolerant

## Some facts

- ▶ Lawns **do not** last forever without some upkeep and regeneration!
  - This means proper irrigation
  - Thatching
  - Over-seeding
  - Fertilization
  - Weed control
  - Aerating

## Weed control

- ▶ There is no better weed control than a healthy dense turf!



## Crabgrass and Bermuda

- ▶ Problems in many lawns
- ▶ Both warm season grasses
  - Where they create their opportunity

## Crabgrass

- ▶ Easy!
- ▶ It is an Annual
  - means comes up from seed **EVERY** year
- ▶ This is its weak point and we can take advantage on this



## Crabgrass pre-emergence herbicides

- ▶ Benefin - Balan
- ▶ benefin/trifluralin – Team
- ▶ Bensulide – Betasan
- ▶ corn gluten meal – Many
- ▶ dithiopyr – Dimension
- ▶ oxadiazon – Ronstar
- ▶ Pendimethalin - Pre-M/Pendulum
- ▶ prodiamine – Barricade
- ▶ Siduron - Tupersan

## ▶ Pendimethalin

- ▶ What is this?
  - Pre-emergence
    - ▶ Impacts germination
  - Soil active
  - herbicide



## Rule of thumb

- ▶ When the forstthitia bloom in the spring it is time to apply your pre-emergence herbicide for crab grass control
- ▶ One application is usually enough in our climate
- ▶ Crabgrass not as common as people think

## Crabgrass post emergence herbicides

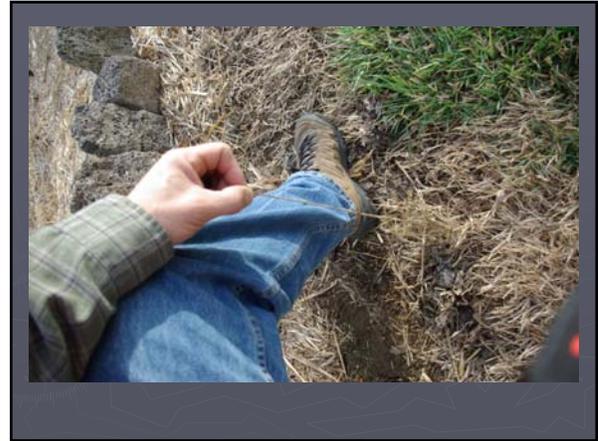
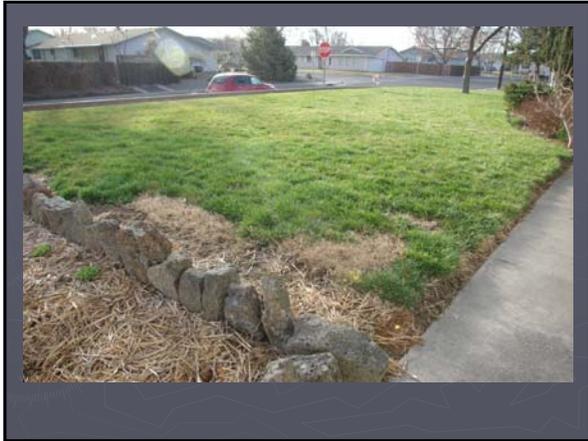
- ▶ ACCLAIM - should be applied when crabgrass is in the 3 to 4 leaf stage of development
- ▶ Rate depends on growth stage

## Cultural control

- ▶ Mow high – 2.5-3 inches
  - Keeps seeds from germinating
- ▶ Decrease height in fall and bag
  - Harvests seed heads
- ▶ Fertilize adequately
  - Keep fertility low in the fall
  - Fertilize in early winter
- ▶ Hand weed

## Bermuda grass The BEAST

- ▶ Perennial
- ▶ Warm season grass
- ▶ Aggressive
- ▶ Will come up through amazing stuff
- ▶ Will crawl over barriers
- ▶ Difficult to kill



### Bermuda

- ▶ Most people that think they have crabgrass actually have Bermuda (in my experience)
- ▶ RUNNERS!!!!!!
  - Climb
  - Cross over curbs

### Bermuda

- ▶ First to brown up in the fall
- ▶ Last to green up in the spring
- ▶ Not very shade tolerant

### Cultural control

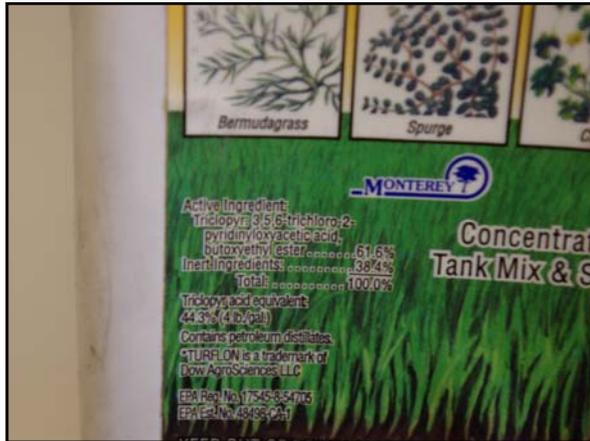
- ▶ Going dormant in the fall
  - Allows for fall fertilization
  - Allows for fall over-seeding
- ▶ Last to green in the spring
  - Lets you get your act together to over-seed and get another grass established
- ▶ Mowing high will keep light to a minimum and make your lawn grass more competitive

### Over-seeding

- ▶ Seeding into your grass
  - Must keep moist
  - Requires using something to cover
    - ▶ Sand
    - ▶ Peat moss
    - ▶ Fine bark mulch
    - ▶ Compost
    - ▶ Soil
- ▶ The more care used the higher the germination...

## Chemical control

- ▶ Must be in combination with cultural control
- ▶ Turflon
- ▶ Dimension - expensive



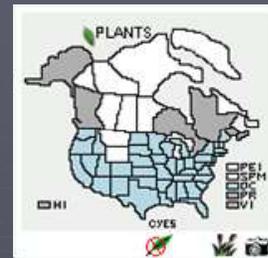
## Bermuda

- ▶ Cultural
  - Shade
  - Mowing height
  - Over-seeding
- ▶ Chemical
  - several
- ▶ Combination
  - Best opportunity for success



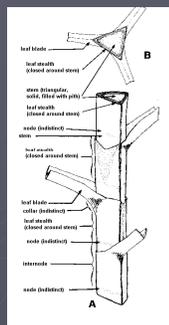
## Nutsedge

- ▶ Extremely difficult to control
  - Glyphosate will not control
  - Cultural control difficult except maintain healthy lawn
  - Present along lots of canal banks so if getting irrigation water may be inoculating yourself.
  - Likes over irrigation
- Common weed across the USA



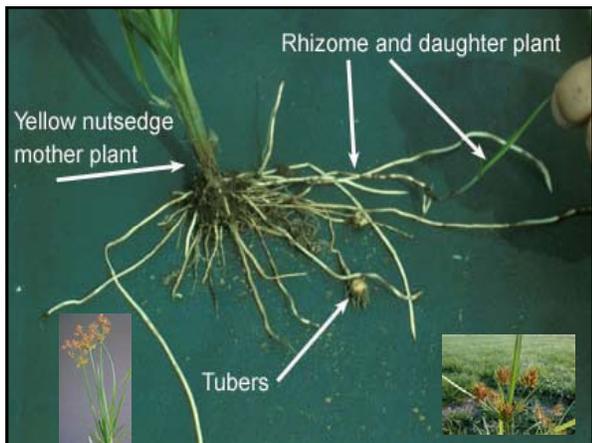
## Identification

- ▶ Yellow
- ▶ Coarse
- ▶ Triangular leaves
- ▶ Dig up and there are nutlets



## Nutsedge

- ▶ Three ways to attack your lawn
  - Seeds
  - Nuts
  - Rhizomes



## Chemical control

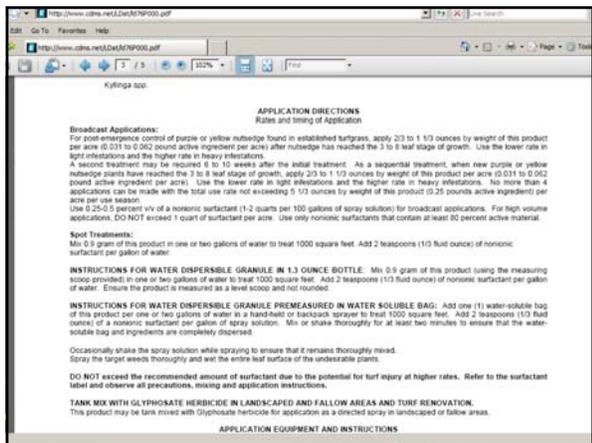
- ▶ Homeowners can buy pre-emergent herbicides like Pennant (for turfgrass or ornamental plants) or Basagran T/O, Daconate 6 for cool-season grasses

▶ <http://www.allaboutlawns.com/lawn-mowing-mowers/getting-the-edge-on-yellow-nutsedge.html>

## Halosulfuron

- ▶ Controls nutsedges
  - Manage
  - Sedgehammer
  - Permit
- Legal to apply to a lawn (except permit)
- ▶ Difficulty - not easily available in homeowner formulations





**SedgeHammer Herbicide**

The Gown Company has acquired the rights to [Manage Herbicide](#) and is selling the product under the brand name "SedgeHammer". Same great product, same active ingredients with the same great results. Only the name has changed. SedgeHammer herbicide controls both yellow and purple nutsedge in cool season and warm season turfgrasses. It can be used in both turf and landscaped areas, including those with established woody ornamentals.

SedgeHammer: [Same as Manage](#).  
**SedgeHammer works best when mixed with a professional surfactant, spreader sticker.**  
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<http://www.pestproducts.com/sedgehammer.htm>

## Yellow Nutsedge

- ▶ Best cure
  - Stay vigilant
  - Maintain healthy lawn
  - Irrigate correctly (likes wet)
- ▶ Once infested difficult to control

## Summary

- ▶ Enjoy your yard
- ▶ Call KOHU with questions on Friday mornings (Lawn and Garden show)
- ▶ Keep the battle realistic
  - Some weeds OK
  - Don't always need the chemical arsenal
- ▶ When in doubt – "sell the house"