

Windmillgrass (*Chloris verticillata*) control options: New news is good news

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Tumble Windmillgrass (*Chloris verticillata*) is a warm season native perennial. This compact grass has a visually interesting flower consisting of 10-16 spikes arranged into at least 2 levels of windmills, hence the name. As the seedheads mature they become perfect seed dispersal mechanisms for spread of this intriguing, but problematic weed in turfgrass systems. These seedheads will break loose when the seed is mature and roll across the turf on windy days like a tumble weed and disperse the seed on surrounding areas. Result: Next year there will be more of it. Historically, spot spraying with glyphosate products has been the go to control measure but recently, great research from KSU student Nicholas Mitchell and former Extension Specialist Jared Hoyle (<https://t.co/CKEuHDjhxv?amp=1>) has identified selective options:

*“Windmillgrass (*Chloris verticillata* Nutt.) populations commonly infest turfgrass systems in the Midwest, which result in aesthetically unacceptable turfgrass stands. Pylex (topramezone) and Acclaim Extra (fenoxaprop) have resulted in fair control of windmillgrass with single applications. For adequate control of windmillgrass, a sequential application of Tenacity (mesotrione), three weeks after the initial application, is recommended. Additionally, studies have shown the addition of triclopyr to HPPD inhibitor herbicides increases windmillgrass control in a controlled environment. Field experiments were initiated in 2018, at the Kansas State University Rocky Ford Turfgrass Research Center in Manhattan, KS, to determine the influence of herbicide combinations with the addition of triclopyr and sequential applications on windmillgrass control.”*

Table 1. Windmillgrass (*Chloris verticillata* Nutt.) control 8 weeks after initial application from single and sequential applications at the Kansas State University Rocky Ford Turfgrass Research Center in Manhattan, KS, in 2018

Treatment	Herbicide	Rate	Application date	Control ^a —%—
1	Non-treated ^b	-	-	4 C ^c
2	Pylex + MSO ^d	2 fl oz/a + 1% v/v	Aug. 16, 2018	87 A
3	Tenacity + NIS ^d	8 fl oz/a + 0.25% v/v	Aug. 16, 2018	9 C
4	Acclaim Extra + NIS	39 fl oz/a + 32 fl oz/100 gal	Aug. 16, 2018	16 C
5	Triclopyr	32 fl oz/a	Aug. 16, 2018	64 B
6	Pylex + Triclopyr + MSO	2 fl oz/a + 32 fl oz/a + 1% v/v	Aug. 16, 2018	96 A
7	Tenacity + Triclopyr + NIS	8 fl oz/a + 32 fl oz/a + 0.25% v/v	Aug. 16, 2018	97 A
8	Acclaim Extra + Triclopyr + NIS	39 fl oz/a + 32 fl oz/a + 32 fl oz/100 gal	Aug. 16, 2018	63 B
9	Pylex + MSO	2 fl oz/a + 1% v/v	Aug. 16, 2018 fb ^e Sept. 9, 2018	100 A
10	Tenacity + NIS	8 fl oz/a + 0.25% v/v	Aug. 16, 2018 fb Sept. 9, 2018	100 A
11	Acclaim Extra + NIS	39 fl oz/a + 32 fl oz/100 gal	Aug. 16, 2018 fb Sept. 9, 2018	88 A
12	Triclopyr	32 fl oz/a	Aug. 16, 2018 fb Sept. 9, 2018	100 A
13	Pylex + Triclopyr + MSO	2 fl oz/a + 32 fl oz/a + 1% v/v	Aug. 16, 2018 fb Sept. 9, 2018	100 A
14	Tenacity + Triclopyr + NIS	8 fl oz/a + 32 fl oz/a + 0.25% v/v	Aug. 16, 2018 fb Sept. 9, 2018	100 A
15	Acclaim Extra + Triclopyr + NIS	39 fl oz/a + 32 fl oz/a + 32 fl oz/100 gal	Aug. 16, 2018 fb Sept. 9, 2018	100 A

^aRatings were conducted 8 weeks after initial application; October 11, 2018.

^bNon-treated control contained approximately 65% windmillgrass cover throughout the research trial. Only 4% control was observed on October 11, 2018, due to natural declining of windmillgrass populations because of environmental conditions.

^cTreatment means followed by a common capital letter are not significantly different according to Fisher's protected LSD ($\alpha=0.05$).

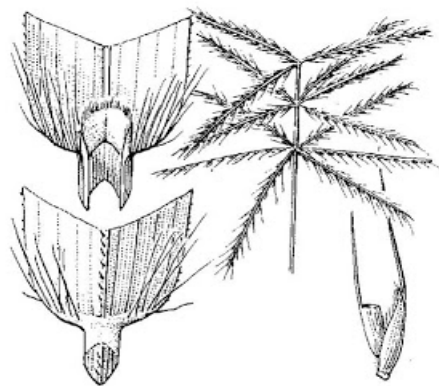
^dMethylated seed oil (MSO) and non-ionic surfactant (NIS) were added to treatments according to herbicide manufacture's recommendations.

^efb = followed by.

This is promising news for facilities and locations with windmillgrass.

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SCOTT'S GUIDE TO GRASSES



Figure 1. Tumble windmillgrass drawing from Scott's Guide to Turfgrasses and image from lawn in central Nebraska.

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