

It's likely too late to safely apply glyphosate to buffalograss March 29, 2017

Glyphosate is commonly applied to dormant buffalograss during winter to safely control cool-season weeds. Applications more effectively control weeds, and are less likely to injure buffalograss, when made early in winter. This manner of control may also be effective early in the spring, but applications should cease prior to buffalograss greening to limit injury.

When is it no longer safe to apply glyphosate to buffalograss this spring? As soon as you notice green tissue at the base of leaves, buffalograss is able to absorb glyphosate and the application window is closed. Grass leaves emerge and elongate at the base of plants, so close inspection is necessary to identify new growth. It's too late for this strategy in our buffalograss plots on campus in Lincoln, and the window is likely closing throughout the state (if it hasn't already). If you intend to treat buffalograss with glyphosate, thoroughly look for green tissue in any area you intend to treat.



Buffalograss is beginning to green at both fairway (left) and lawn (right) heights of cut in Lincoln, NE (image captured on March 27, 2017). Location, cultivar, etc. affect the timing of green up, so closely inspect any area intended for treatment.

Cole Thompson, Assistant Professor, Integrated Turfgrass Management Specialist, cole.thompson@unl.edu

Extension is a Division of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln cooperating with the Counties and the United States Department of Agriculture.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension education programs abide with the nondiscrimination policies of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the United States Department of Agriculture.