

Soil temperatures back in PRE window**April 22, 2016**

Many people made their initial preemergence (PRE) applications when soil temperatures were in the mid-fifties during early March. Then soil temperatures cooled off with the snow, and we were outside the ideal PRE window. The warm weather (and soil temperatures) have once again returned and we are back in the PRE application window for the entire state. The recent rain has also stimulated a lot of growth, so try to buy and apply a PRE that doesn't contain any fertilizer. No one wants to mow more than twice a week this spring. Consider using a PRE plus nitrogen fertilizer for a second application (if you have a history of annual grassy weed control). Anyone that made an application in early March should apply a second application by the middle of May. Those who have waited until now should make their second application in mid- to late June.

It's hard to justify PRE applications to well-maintained lawns that do not have a history of annual grassy weed problems. For example, my yard received PREs for 12 years before I moved in. The previous owner was very diligent with two PRE applications each spring. As a result, I do not have heavy grassy weed pressure and I chose not to apply a PRE. If crabgrass does emerge this summer, then I will spot-spray with a post-emergence product and apply a PRE next spring. There is no sense treating for a pest that you do not have. This approach embodies sound IPM strategies. First, maintain a health lawn, scout for pests, and then apply control products if they are warranted.

More info about control of annual grassy weeds:

<http://turf.unl.edu/NebGuides/Crabgrasscontrolhomelawn2010b.pdf>

<http://turf.unl.edu/NebGuides/LCOProSeriesCrabgv6.pdf>

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