

PRE Window Closing Fast May 20, 2015

The window of preemergence herbicide application is still open (especially in NW Nebraska) but is closing fast. Soil temperatures have been hang around the mid-fifties for over two months. This has led to a great diversity in applications. For applications made at the start of the window (mid-March), a second application may be required to sustain season long control of annual grassy weeds. That application should be made 8 to 10 weeks after the first application. This is recommended for turf areas with a history of annual grassy weed problems and for sites with poor turf density. If a first application of PRE has not yet be applied, consider using the product dithiopyr because it has both PRE and very early POST control of crabgrass. I've noticed larger crabgrass plants on gravel paths, south facing slopes, and south of brick walls or buildings. These plants will need to be controlled with a standalone POST like quinclorac, mesotrione, or fenoxaprop. Application of a PRE at this time will also help prevent future weeds later in the summer.

Bill Kreuser, Extension Turfgrass Specialist, wkreuser2@unl.edu

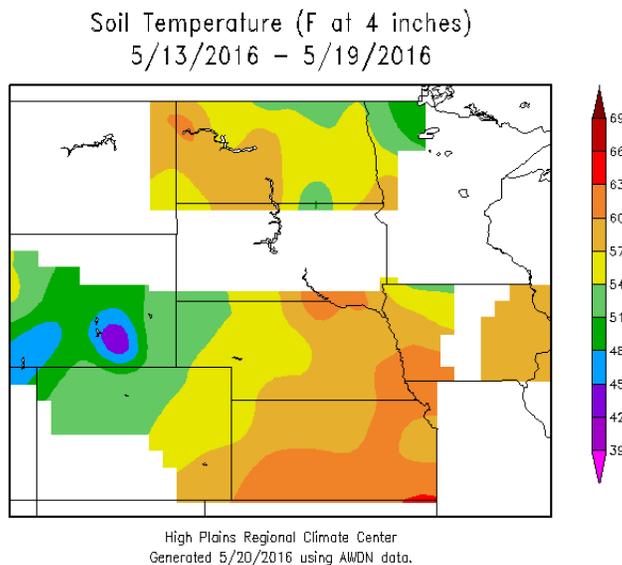


Figure 1. The extreme NW corner of Nebraska is finally getting into the PRE window. Applications of PRE made in March will likely need a successive application in early June to sustain season-long control of grassy annual weeds.



Figure 2. Mature crabgrass is difficult to control. Prevent this weed with a PRE or kill it with a POST when it is still young.
Photo: USDA.gov