

Postemergence herbicide options for crabgrass control**June 22, 2017**

Aside from hotspots in thin or bare areas (or next to hardscapes), crabgrass plants that have emerged this year are still relatively small in Lincoln. I skipped preemergence herbicide in my lawn this year, and have controlled the few plants that have emerged with hand weeding before I mow. We have few developing crabgrass plants in our research plots in Lincoln, which should change as the unrelenting stresses of summer impose their will. If you haven't been as fortunate, you may be considering your postemergence (POST) herbicide options while plants are still relatively small – you are wise to do so.

Common herbicides. The table on the following page lists common herbicides used to control crabgrass after it emerges. Rates, application schedules, and turfgrass safety will vary depending on desirable species and crabgrass maturity (Figure 1), so be sure to check product labels. Products for POST crabgrass control are generally less injurious to desirable species if applied at temperatures <85F. Right now, it appears that max air temperatures Friday (6/23) through Sunday (6/25) will be favorable for safe application of POST herbicides throughout Nebraska.



Figure 1. Different levels of crabgrass maturity; 2 tillers (*left*), 4 tillers (*middle*), and 7 tillers (*right*).

Putting greens. There currently are no POST herbicides labeled for crabgrass control in creeping bentgrass putting greens. However, researchers at Virginia Tech have recently shown that applications of Tupersan (siduron) at 6 lbs/A every 7 days (or 12 lbs/A every 14 days) will provide good control of crabgrass (and goosegrass) in creeping bentgrass putting greens (http://oak.ppws.vt.edu/~saskew/greens_programs.mp4). Tupersan is a preemergence herbicide that is legal to apply to creeping bentgrass putting greens at seasonal rates up to 24 lbs/A/year. Be sure to read the product label before using this (or any) herbicide.

Goosegrass. Fenoxaprop, fluazifop, sethoxydim, and topramezone will provide POST control of goosegrass. Check product labels and the table on the following page for turfgrass safety, etc. Fenoxaprop is the most likely herbicide to be used by homeowners, topramezone is more likely to be used by professionals, and the others would rarely be used to target goosegrass in NE. Quinclorac does not control goosegrass.

Bottom line. This weekend will be a good time to control crabgrass with POST herbicides if hand weeding is not a sufficient control measure. Carefully select a product, and follow label instructions for best control. Sequential applications may be necessary with some products or with more mature crabgrass.

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Active Ingredient	Example Trade Name(s)	Turfgrass Safety [†]	Stage when Effective	Recommended Adjuvant	Notes
Fenoxaprop	Acclaim Extra Bayer Advanced Crabgrass Killer for Lawns	Fine Fescues Kentucky bluegrass Perennial ryegrass Tall fescue Zoysiagrass	Up to 5 tillers	Nonionic surfactant <i>(Bayer Advanced Crabgrass Killer for Lawns is a ready-to-use product)</i>	May injure creeping bentgrass [†] ; rates vary depending on crabgrass developmental stage
Fluazifop	Fusilade II Ornamec	Tall fescue Zoysiagrass	2 to 8 inches tall; before tillering/seed head production	Nonionic surfactant	Ornamec may be used in residential lawns
Mesotrione	Tenacity	Buffalograss Fine fescue Kentucky bluegrass Perennial ryegrass Tall fescue	<4 tillers	Nonionic surfactant	Apply before or at seeding, or >4 weeks after emergence of desirable species
Quinclorac	Drive XLR8 Quinclorac 75DF Quinclorac 1.5L	Safe on most species with proper rate	<2 or >4 tillers	Crop oil concentrate or methylated seed oil	May injure creeping bentgrass [†] and fine fescue
Sethoxydim	Segment	Fine fescues	Before well-tillered	-	Only for use in fine fescues
Topramezone	Pylex	Fine fescues Kentucky bluegrass Perennial ryegrass Tall fescue	<4 tillers	Crop oil concentrate or methylated seed oil	Apply before or at seeding, or >4 weeks after seeding; creeping bentgrass [†] is marginally tolerant

[†]There are currently no registered products for postemergence crabgrass control in creeping bentgrass putting greens.