

Post Emergence Lawn Weed Control

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It is often best to prevent lawn weeds, but you can kill some of them once they are up. This information should help you when using post-emergence herbicides. I list the common and chemical names for these herbicides. Read the label. Weed killers can come under more than one common name. Check the active ingredient to be sure of what you are applying before you use the chemical.

Grass killers are useful to kill a weedy grass out of your lawn. **Vantage or Poast** (which contain the active ingredient sethoxydim) kill many grasses but not centipede and fine fescue. They kill crabgrass well, but do not work as well on bahia or Bermuda grass. Spray them over centipede to kill crab grass. They can also be used to reduce the amount of bahia and Bermuda grass in the turf. This may require several treatments four to six weeks apart. Results may be only fair without repeated treatments exactly as the label recommends. Even then, Poast and Vantage may not completely control bahia or Bermuda grass. Do not use these on any turf except centipede.

Manor or Blade (metsulfuron) is better at controlling bahia than Poast or Vantage, but is generally only available to commercial landscape firms. One of these firms can apply it for you. These chemicals will not kill Bermuda grass.

Round up or Finale should kill back weedy grasses (like bahia and Bermuda grass), but will also kill your lawn grass. You can use them to spot spray weeds in lawns but expect them to kill part of the lawn if the chemical gets on the leaves of the grass. Bermuda grass is extremely difficult to control and will probably require repeated sprays on a frequent basis.

Since Bermuda and bahia grass are so drought tolerant, you may not be able to control them permanently without a sprinkler system. Dry weather kills or stunts other grasses and allows these two to spread. Water lawns with one inch of water once a week or one-half to three-quarter inch twice a week during dry weather. The best lawn weed control is thick healthy turf.

Fusilade (fluazifop) may kill perennial grassy weeds better than Vantage. It also kills most lawn grasses, except Zoysia. Use it at a half rate in Zoysia lawns to suppress Bermuda or other grasses. It may burn the zoysia but the turf should recover. Fusilade can come with many brand names, so read the label carefully to check the active ingredient.

MSMA and DSMA will control crabgrass, bahia grass, dallis grass and some broadleaf weeds and will suppress nutgrass. Use them only on Bermuda and zoysia turf. You may

need several treatments close together for best control. Read and follow all label directions exactly. They can discolor Bermuda turf, especially in warmer weather.

Use **Atrazine** to control broadleaf weeds in all turf, except actively growing Bermuda grass. It comes under many names and kills several broadleaf weeds and a few grasses. Do not over use it, since it also has some soil activity. It can damage your lawn grass, so follow label directions.

Many chemicals like **Weed B Gone, 33 Plus, Trimec** and others contain mixtures of 2, 4-D, dicamba and MCPP to kill broadleaf weeds like dandelion, lespedeza, dichondra and chickweed. Use them cautiously on centipede and St Augustine. Make sure the formulation you have is labeled for your grass type and do not exceed the label rate. Keep them away from your shrubs.

Imazaquin is useful for controlling nutgrass and wild onion or garlic. Imazaquin is the active ingredient in several different chemicals. Read the label to see if it can be used on your type of lawn grass. Use two applications four to six weeks apart. Imazaquin may yellow turf, especially in hot weather, but it should recover. **Manage** may work better on nutgrass and is less likely to damage turf. It is also harder to find.

For information on these or other chemicals, contact us or see the **Georgia Pest Control Handbook** (www.ent.uga.edu/pmh/). Remember that most herbicides require good growth conditions for best control - moist soils, growing plants and moderate temperatures. Some herbicides will damage grass at high temperatures. Always read and follow all the directions on the label.