

Landscape Topic

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Controlling Bermuda Grass in Beds

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Bermuda grass (*Cynodon dactylon*) is very hard to control in landscape beds. Hand pulling, hoeing and mulching helps curtail the spread of Bermuda grass, but seldom do you get it all. Most people turn to herbicides. Several postemergent herbicides control Bermuda grass.

Glyphosate (sold under the trade name Roundup and many others) will control Bermuda grass when applied directly to actively growing grass. There are a few tricks you should use when trying to control Bermuda grass with glyphosate.

- First, you need to make and apply a 5-percent spray solution (7 ounces per gallon of water using a glyphosate product that contains 41 percent active ingredient).
- Make sure none of the spray solution contacts desirable plants (foliage, stem or exposed roots). Wet the foliage of the Bermuda grass until runoff.
- Repeat applications when Bermuda grass re-grows.

Several selective herbicides can be used over-the-top of broadleaf plants. These last three herbicides can be used over-the-top of many broadleaf plants. When used according to the label, these should control the Bermuda grass with little to no damage to most broadleaf plants (see herbicide label for details). Some require an added adjuvant to help the herbicide spray enter or penetrate the plant (see herbicide label).

The key with these herbicides is to re-apply them when Bermuda grass re-grows (2 to 4 applications a year).

- Sethoxydim (Segment, PoastPlus and others)
- Clethodim (Envoy and others)
- Flusifop-P (Fusilade II, Ornamec, Gras-B-Gon and others)

Make sure to read and follow the label instructions of any pesticide you use.