

The Turf Store Tips and gardening

Getting to the Root of Broadleaf Weed Control

The best weed control is a well managed turf. When desirable grasses are properly managed, they are quite competitive with weeds, but there will be times when chemical controls will become necessary for complete eradication of weeds. The type of chemical used and its timing will depend on the species of turfgrass and the life cycle of the weed to be controlled. Understanding the life cycle of the weed can be important in developing a strategy to eliminate it.

There are many different formulations of broadleaf weed killers, which all vary in the amount of **active ingredient**. The **active ingredient** is the actual amount of chemical within a container.

Most turfgrasses are tolerant of broadleaf herbicides, although there are some exceptions. Application of high rates of weed killers during hot, dry conditions may brown desirable grasses. Avoid application of herbicides when temperatures exceed 85° F or fall below 60° F. Effectiveness of post-emergent broadleaf herbicides is better when rainfall or irrigation does not occur for 24 hours after application. For best results, mow before treating. Poor weed control may result if weed killers are applied during drought.

Several herbicides have been combined with fertilizers to speed application. These herbicides are primarily active through the foliage, applications must be made when the material will adhere. This is usually in the morning when all light dew is on the grass and weeds.

Timing of fertilization should be used to favor the turf and work against the weeds. On cool season grasses, fertilizer should be applied heavily in the fall and lightly in the spring (when these grasses will benefit). Fertilizer applied in the peak growth period of the weed in summer, will only encourage the weeds.

Cool season lawns should be aerified in late summer-early fall to avoid large populations of weeds germinating in the turf.

Newly seeded turf should not be treated with broadleaf weed killers until enough growth has occurred to allow two mowings. Herbicides are biodegraded by soil micro-organisms and their persistence in the soil ranges between 2 and 4 weeks. With most herbicides, you must wait 3 weeks before seeding, laying sod, planting stolons, plugs or sprigs.

The label is a useful source of information and it should always be read thoroughly before application.

A.I. = Active Ingredient

DO YOU KNOW WHAT
IT MEANS?
YOU NEED TO!

*It can save you both
time and money!*



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