



B.S. ENTOMOLOGY, M.A.G. - CROP SCIENCE

Superior weed control in 2010

The kinds of herbicides I use make my weed control program unique. I will be using two different pre-emergent herbicides and will personally be applying all treatments to your lawn.

I have included my suggestions to help you and your "lawn man" make your lawn more drought tolerant and have less weeds.

Questions for Dana

1) Why do you use Dimension as one of two different types of pre-emergents instead of the cheaper yellow herbicides?

Prior to Dimension being labeled for use in lawns 15 years ago, we used the standard yellow pre-emergent herbicides. Yellow pre-emergents get their name from the characteristic yellow color of the products. Most nurseries and other chemical lawn companies use or sell these herbicides. Their low cost is why they are very popular chemicals. Dimension cost \$106 per gallon vs. \$20 per gallon-- both are used at the same rate per 1000 sq ft. **We do not use the yellows due to the turf damage that they cause in weak areas of the lawn.** These are areas where the lawn is already weak from the lack of sunlight. The grass will become very thin due to root pruning. I have seen very little injury with Dimension, especially when it is applied in stages 50% Jan-Feb. and 50 % again in March -April. This allows for excellent control of weeds for an entire summer, yet reduces stressful toxicity that might occur to the lawn.

2) Why do you also apply the unique broadleaf weed pre-emergent Gallery?

Most pre-emergent herbicides control only grassy type weeds. As water becomes more expensive homeowners water less, which results in weaker lawns. Weaker lawns have a less dense turf, which allows broadleaf weeds like Spurge (milkweed) to germinate. We can reduce this type of seed germination by 80% with this product. Like Dimension this is an expensive product at a cost of \$200 per acre. We clean weed escapes with another product called Power Zone. This is also very new chemistry which kills spurge and dandelions after they germinate.

3) Why do you like Coron Fertilizer?

Coron is a 70 % slow release fertilizer. This produces excellent color with less thatch build up. We add iron and other micronutrients. Humic acid is also used to improve the soil biology. Humates improve soil microbial populations, improve air and water percolation, and make soil nutrients are more available to the turf.

4) Why do you use the new more expensive grubworm control product ---Acelepryn?

Grubworms are becoming more difficult to control. We have used this new product since it was labeled in June of 2008. So far we have been very successful with this new product.

Easy and organic ways to help conserve water and control weeds:

- Do not mow less than 2.5 inches except in early spring when scalping is ok.
- Turf mowed at 1 inch will need dramatically more water as roots die due to the lack of leaf area.
- Reducing mowing height from 2.5 inches to 1 inch can easily increase spurge (milkweed) by 100 %.
- "String weed eaters" that remove the turf along the edges will dramatically increase weeds. Ask your lawn man to maintain a thick thatch even on the edges and small areas.
- By mowing high, the lawn is stimulated to root deeper allowing for greater drought tolerance and prevention of weeds.
- If you are going to allow your lawn to receive only marginal water (1.5 inches per week is marginal after July) you may need to tell your lawn man that your lawn will be so dry after July that the lawn may need mowing only 1 time every 2 weeks.
- With less mowing you will notice Clump grasses, sedges and perennial weeds which will continue to grow due to their ability to tolerate drought. Our herbicides can only control most perennial weeds temporarily because the weeds have ability to regenerate from their roots even after the tops have been damaged.

The drier the lawn, the taller the grass should be cut. Even with weed control chemicals and high mowing, weeds will be worse because your neighbors' lawns are generating more weed seed for you to fight. The thatch or turf thickness is like your skin. If the lawn is mowed too short you are removing the protective skin of your lawn. Taller grass has deeper roots, which explore the soil for nutrients and water; tall grasses stop weed germination, especially spurge.

I have noticed that as homeowners try to follow water conservation efforts, the lawns do not grow as fast. The lawn mower is then usually lowered and the lawn gets shorter each week. **Lowering the mower is the worst thing you can do.** The opposite should be happening. As the water is restricted, the mower should be raised and lawns mowed less frequently. This may result in less mowing, instead of once per week you may need to need to mow only once per 2 weeks.

The decision on how much you are going to water needs to be made during the winter before weekly summer contracts are made.

The lawn will look the best with weekly mowing but do not lower the mower.

If you insist on trying to get a "putting green look" you will need to water like a golf course, disregarding the cost of water.