



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

Superior weed control

The kinds of herbicides I use make my weed control program unique. I will be using two and in some situations three 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) Do you do all of the treatments?

Yes I do all treatments myself. This assures you that your treatments will be done correctly every time.

2) Why is your approach to weed control so different from other companies?

My main focus is to keep your lawn as healthy as possible. The use of two and sometimes three different pre-emergent chemicals allow me to control more weeds with less stress on the turf. 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) and crabgrass to germinate. My weed control is applied in overlapping layers during the course of the year. There is not a one treatment-one chemical miracle. Each product has strengths and weaknesses, and with my knowledge and expertise I can maintain weed control in a safe and prudent manner.

3) Why do you like Coron Fertilizer?

Coron is a 70 % slow release fertilizer. This produces excellent color with less thatch build-up. I add iron and other micronutrients. I also use sulfur especially in the fall and winter to lower the lawns pH and provide better growth and health.

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 grub control has been very successful with this new product.

5) Why do you over-seed fescue lawns and transition bermuda lawns to fescue?

I use the # 1 rated drought tolerant fescue to maintain my lawns. Fescue still solves so many problems with lawns that have less sunlight due to tree growth. Other alternative ideas such as artificial grass, rocks, shade tolerant bermuda, shadow turf, ect. have not been nearly as successful and have been much more costly.

6) Why do some weeds regenerate after being treated?

Many weeds are perennial or "root type" weeds that draw the energy from a tough deep root system. Common weeds such as Dandelion, Texas Blue Weed, Ground Cherry, Woollyleaf Bursage are in this group. I am able to "wear out" the weeds with repetitive treatments. These are generally problems on new homes or lawns that have had poor weed control efforts. Weeds such as Nutsedge or Red woodsorrel (Purple clover) can only be suppressed not totally controlled.

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.