

Herbicide Recommendations for Weed Control in Kentucky Bluegrass and Tall Fescue Lawns for Professional Applicators

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The best method to control weeds is to grow a dense and healthy lawn. This objective should be primary for turf professionals. The following UK Cooperative Extension Service publications are sources for information on growing the best turf possible:

- AGR 51—*Renovating Your Lawn*
- AGR 54—*Aerifying and Dethatching Lawns*
- AGR 115—*Irrigation Tips to Conserve Water and Grow a Healthy Lawn*
- AGR 209—*Mowing your Kentucky Lawn*
- AGR 211—*Calibrating Fertilizer Spreaders for the Home Lawn*
- AGR 212—*Fertilizing Your Lawn*
- AGR 214—*Liming Kentucky Lawns*
- ENTFACT 10—*Controlling White Grubs in Turfgrass*
- PPFS-OR-11—*Disease Management in the Home Lawn*
- PPFS-OR-T-07—*Calendar for Diseases of Cool-season Grasses in Kentucky*

Table 1. Newly seeded turf

Weeds	Herbicides		Time of Application
	Common Name	Trade Name Examples	
Mustard Crabgrass Foxtail	bromoxynil ¹	Buctril	Apply during fall after grass germination
	siduron ²	Tupersan	Can be applied at time of planting in spring.
	mesotrione ³	Scott's Turf Builder, Tenacity	

¹ For post-emergence control. Safe on seedling grasses. Use bromoxynil only on nonresidential turf.
² For pre-emergence control only.
³ Some formulations of mesotrione are available only with a pesticide application license.

Lawn weed control is facilitated by identification of the turfgrass and weed species present. Not all herbicides will control all weeds, and not all herbicides are safe on all lawn grasses. Weeds are most easily controlled when they are small and actively growing. As with any pesticide use, care should be taken for applicator and environmental safety. Thoroughly read and understand herbicide labels prior to application.

This publication contains herbicide recommendations for licensed professionals. For information on weed control

for non-professionals, see AGR 208—*Weed Control for Kentucky Home Lawns*.

The following tables contain herbicide options for newly planted as well as established lawns, and pre-emergent and post-emergent options for annual and perennial weeds.

Always closely follow the directions on the label. Many different formulations and combinations of these materials are sold under various trade names, and the quantity of use will vary with the formulation obtained.

Table 2. Established turf—pre-emergence control of summer annual grassy weeds

Weed	Herbicides ¹		Time of Application
	Common Name	Trade Name Examples	
Crabgrass Foxtail Goosegrass	benefin & trifluralin	Team, Team Pro	In southern KY before April 1 and in northern KY before April 15. A six-week repeat application will extend control for entire summer season. If goosegrass is main target weed, apply second application around May 15.
	bensulide	Bensumec, Betasan	
	dithiopyr	Dimension, Quali-Pro Dithiopyr	
	pendimethalin	Pendulum, PRE-M	
	proflaminate	Barricade, RegalKade	

¹ For pre-emergence control apply before weed seeds germinate. Follow label closely for rate of material to be applied on a given area. Some of these products can be impregnated on fertilizer.

Table 3. Established turf—post-emergence control of summer annual grassy weeds and sedges

Herbicides ¹		Time of Application				
		Apply following weed emergence. Best results are obtained if treatments are made when weeds are very small, tender, and growing rapidly.			When weed is actively growing and during good soil moisture conditions.	
		Weed ²				
Common Name	Trade Name Examples	Crabgrass	Foxtail	Goosegrass	Yellow nutsedge	Green kyllinga
carfentrazone + quinclorac	SquareOne	G ³	G	P	--	--
fenoxaprop	Acclaim Extra	G	G	F-G	--	--
mesotrione	Scott's Turf Builder, Tenacity	G	P	F	--	--
quinclorac	Drive XLR8	G	G	P	--	--
quinclorac + mecoprop + dicamba	Onetime	G	G	P	--	--
quinclorac + sulfentazone + 2,4-D + dicamba	Q4 Plus	G	G	P	--	--
sulfentrazone	Dismiss	--	--	F	F-G	G
sulfentrazone + prodiamine	Echelon	F	F	F	F	G
sulfentrazone + quinclorac	Solitaire	G	F	F	F	G
topramezone	Pylex	G	G	G	--	--
bentazone	Basagran T/O	--	--	--	G	F-G
halosulfuron	Sedgehammer	--	--	--	F-G	G

¹ May cause temporary discoloration of turfgrass. Do not apply when temperature exceeds 85°F and when turf is drought stressed. Repeat applications may be necessary for complete control. Pay close attention to the directions and precautions on the label.

² "--" denotes the product is either not labeled for the particular weed, or insufficient data exists to make a recommendation.

³ Ratings of P (poor), F (fair), and G (good) were compiled from the following sources: 2014 Clemson University *Pest Control Guidelines for Professional Turfgrass Managers*; *Turfgrass Weed Control for Professionals* 2014 edition, Purdue University; *Broadleaf Weed Control for Home Lawns*, Ohio State University; and *TurfFiles*, North Carolina State University.

Table 4. Established turf—post emergence control of perennial grassy weeds

Weed	Herbicides		Time of Application
	Common Name	Trade Name Examples	
Bentgrass patches	glyphosate ¹	Eraser, Roundup	Apply when target grass (weed) is actively growing and soil moisture is good.
Bermudagrass	glufosinate ¹	Finale	
Dallisgrass	mesotrione ²	Scott's Turf Builder, Tenacity	
Nimblewill	topramezone ³	Pylex	
Quackgrass			
Tall fescue clumps			

¹ These herbicides will kill all desirable grasses and weeds that are green at the time of spraying. Treated areas must be reseeded or sodded with desirable grasses. With bermudagrass control, a second application at three to four weeks following the initial treatment will improve control.

² Provides control of nimblewill (multiple applications required).

³ Provides partial control/suppression of nimblewill and bermudagrass.

Table 5. Established turf—post-emergence control of broadleaf weeds

Herbicides ¹		Time of Application												
		September to early November or March to May										After weeds have emerged in spring or early summer		After greenup in spring or before frost in fall
		Weed ²												
Common Name	Trade Name Examples	Dandelion	Plantains	Wild garlic	Common chickweed	Mouseear chickweed	Ground ivy	Henbit	White clover	Red sorrel	Knotweed	Oxalis	Spurge	Wild violet
2,4-D	2,4-D Amine 4	G ⁴	G	F	P	F	P-F	P-F	P-F	P	P	P	F	P
MCPP	MCPP-p 4 Amine	G	P-F	P	G	G	F	F	G	G	P-F	P	F	P
dicamba ³	Banvel, Vanquish	G	P	F	F-G	F	F-G	F-G	G	G	G	F	G	F
2,4-D + triclopyr	Chaser, Turflon II	G	G	F-G	G	G	G	G	F-G	F-G	G	G	F-G	F-G
2,4-D + dichloroprop	Patron 170	G	G	F-G	G	G	F-G	G	F	F	F	P-F	F-G	F-G
2,4-D + mecoprop + dicamba	Three-Way, Trimec Classic, Triplet	G	G	F-G	G	G	F-G	G	G	G	F-G	P-F	F-G	F-G
2,4-D + clopyralid + dicamba	Millennium Ultra 2	G	G	G	G	G	F	G	G	--	G	P	G	P-F
2,4-D + triclopyr + fluroxypyr	Momentum FX2	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	--	F	G	F	G
2,4-D + fluroxypyr + dicamba	Escalade 2	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	--	G	G	G	P
2,4-D + MCPP + 2,4-DP	Triamine II, Weed Whacker	G	G	G	G	G	F	G	G	--	F	P	F	F
carfentrazone + 2,4-D + MCPP + dicamba	SpeedZone	G	G	F	G	G	F	G	G	--	F	P-F	F-G	F
carfentrazone + MCPA + MCPP + dicamba	PowerZone	G	G	G	G	G	F	G	G	--	F	P	F	F
carfentrazone + quinclorac	SquareOne	G	G	F	F	F	P	F	G	--	--	P	F	P
carfentrazone	Quicksilver	F	G	--	F	F	P	F	F	F	--	F	F	--
sulfentrazone	Dismiss	F	G	--	G	--	P	P	F	G	P	P	G	F
metsulfuron + sulfentrazone	Blindside	G	G	--	G	--	P	G	F	--	P	P	G	F
triclopyr	Turflon Ester	F	F-G	--	--	P-F	G	--	--	F-G	--	G	F-G	F
triclopyr + clopyralid	Confront	G	G	--	G	G	G	--	G	G	F	F-G	F-G	F-G
MCPA + triclopyr + dicamba	CoolPower, Horsepower	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	--	G	G	G	F-G
quinclorac	Drive XLR8	G	G	P	--	--	F	--	G	--	--	--	G	F
quinclorac + MCPP + dicamba	Onetime	G	G	G	F	G	F	G	G	--	G	P	G	F
quinclorac + sulfentrazone + 2,4-D + dicamba	Q4 Plus	G	G	G	G	G	F	G	G	G	G	P	G	F
quinclorac + sulfentrazone	Solitaire	G	G	--	G	--	F	G	G	--	G	P	G	F
sulfentrazone + 2,4-D + MCPP + dicamba	Surge	G	G	G	G	G	F	G	G	G	G	P	G	F
fluroxypyr	Spotlight	P	F	--	G	--	G	G	G	--	--	G	P	P
mesotrione	Tenacity	G	G	--	G	G	F	G	G	--	--	F	--	F

¹ Many different formulations and combinations of these materials are sold under various trade names, and the quantity of use will vary with the formulation obtained. **Repeated spot treatments following first applications may be necessary.** Avoid spray drift that might injure desirable plants. Do not use same spray equipment for spraying flowers, vegetables, fruits, or shrubs.

² "--" denotes the product is either not labeled for the particular weed, or insufficient data exists to make a recommendation.

³ Do not use dicamba where the chemical may be washed into root zone of desirable trees, shrubs, or other desirable crops. It is much safer to apply spot sprays than make general applications, especially during summer. Pay close attention to the directions and precautions on the label.

⁴ Ratings of P (poor), F (fair), and G (good) were compiled from the following sources: 2014 Clemson University *Pest Control Guidelines for Professional Turfgrass Managers*; *Turfgrass Weed Control for Professionals* 2014 edition, Purdue University; *Broadleaf Weed Control for Home Lawns*, Ohio State University; and *TurfFiles*, North Carolina State University.

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