

Crabgrass is a weedy grass that needs a warm, sunny environment to thrive. The seed germinates in late spring through summer, when soil temperatures are above 50 degrees. It grows vigorously through the summer and dies with the arrival of freezing winter weather. But, each plant is capable of producing over 3000 seeds, waiting to sprout the following year.

Mowing at a height of 2 ½" - 3", watering thoroughly during dry spells, and following a fall fertilization schedule will reduce crabgrass. But, crabgrass can occur in healthy lawns and applying a pre-emergent control, to prevent crabgrass is easier and more effective than using a post-emergent to kill it later, after it gets started.

PRE-EMERGENT CONTROL

Pre-Emergent Crabgrass controls should be applied from March 15 – April 15 before the seed sprouts. A second application in mid-summer may be necessary where there is a history of weed problems. Crabgrass preventers are available with, or without a fertilizer.

Tupersan – Prevents crabgrass and can be applied at the same time as seeding your lawn. Tupersan remains effective for 4-6 weeks and should be applied once every 4 weeks throughout the spring and summer.

Preen Lawn Crabgrass Preventer – Prevents crabgrass and over 25 other weeds. For best results apply in early spring and repeat application 90 days later. Also kills crabgrass seedlings. Wait 60 days after application before planting grass seed. Do not apply to a newly seeded lawn until it has been mowed three times.

Corn Gluten Meal – Natural, organic weed preventer controls crabgrass and most other weeds in lawns and gardens for up to 2 months. Wait 6 weeks before planting grass seed. Irrigate with ½ inch of water following application.

POST-EMERGENT CONTROL

The key to successful post-emergent control is timely applications. As the Crabgrass plants mature they become more resistant to post-emergent chemicals. The best time to apply post-emergent control is in June or July. As the season progresses more than one application may be necessary. These products may cause some yellowing, but will not harm your lawn if used according to the directions.

Bayer Bermuda grass Control for Lawns – Also controls Japanese Stilt Grass and Crabgrass

Trimec Crabgrass Plus Lawn Weed Killer (or similar brand) – kills broadleaf weeds and crabgrass. 3 week no-seed period.

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