

Preemergence Control of Crabgrass 1992-1997

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Objective

Our objective was to show the historical performance of commonly used preemergence herbicides to control crabgrass.

Rationale

The level of crabgrass control provided by a given preemergence herbicide varies from year to year. Why this variability in crabgrass control occurs is not completely known. It is important for professional turf managers to recognize that crabgrass control provided by a preemergence herbicide will vary from year to year and site to site.

How It Was Done

Commonly used preemergence herbicides were applied to Kentucky bluegrass turf prior to crabgrass seed germination. Percent cover by crabgrass was determined by visual rating in mid to late Aug each year.

Results

- The crabgrass population varied widely from year to year as indicated by the percent cover by crabgrass in the untreated check (Table 1). The exact reasons for this are not known.
- All the preemergence herbicides at the rates applied generally provided acceptable or better crabgrass control.

Table 1. Crabgrass cover following treatment with preemergence herbicides from 1992-1997.

Herbicide	Application rate lbs ai/A	% Crabgrass cover ^a				
		1992	1993	1994	1996	1997
Dimension 1EC	0.5	6.0	0.7	--	7.0	2.3
Pendimethalin 60 WDG	3.0	--	2.0	10.0	11.0	1.0
Ronstar 2G	3.0	3.0	0.6	18.3	13.0	2.0
Team 2G	3.0	5.0	3.7	36.7	11.0	5.7
Barricade 65DG	0.5	5.0	1.0	13.7	14.0	5.0
Check	--	28.0	12.0	63.3	40.0	16.8

^aVisual rating of percent of plot covered by crabgrass.