



Spring Lawn Tips

The Atlanta area has experienced a wet/mild winter. This has caused an influx of many winter weeds in the lawns, especially in Bermuda grass. Most of these weeds can be easily controlled with 2-3 applications of weed control spaced 21 days apart. The majority of all weed controls have a 14-21-day residual. A liquid broadleaf weed control that can be used on all types of turf and is generally more effective than a dry weed control. For optimum control, apply when the temperature is above 50 degrees and there is no rain forecasted for 24 hours. To ensure good control of weeds follow the label directions. The most common weeds that are active at this time are common chickweed & Henbit(Purple Flower). Both of these are winter annual weeds and good preventative control can be achieved by applying a pre-emergent in the fall.

If you have not applied a crabgrass control it is not too late, however complete control may not be obtainable depending on actual lawn conditions. Crabgrass germinates when the soil temperature maintains a soil temperature of 58 degrees for 3 days. There are many crabgrass preventatives available on the market. These should be applied presently to prevent germination. Any grassy weed such as fescue or Annual Bluegrass (Poa Annu) in Bermuda will require a selective control at this time different from broadleaf weed control.

Core Aeration increases the overall performance of your lawn. The optimum time to aerate Bermuda or Zoysia is when it is the most actively growing (May/June/July), while the optimum time for fescue is in the fall.

Topdressing Bermuda should be done following core aeration. Since most river sand contains weed and crabgrass seeds, it is a good idea to spread additional crabgrass preventative following topdressing.

Further lawn and gardening tips may be obtained by contacting the Gwinnett County Extension Service at 678-377-4010 or their information line @678-377-4033 or www.ugaextension.com/gwinnett/contact.html, your local county extension agent, or a professional lawn service.