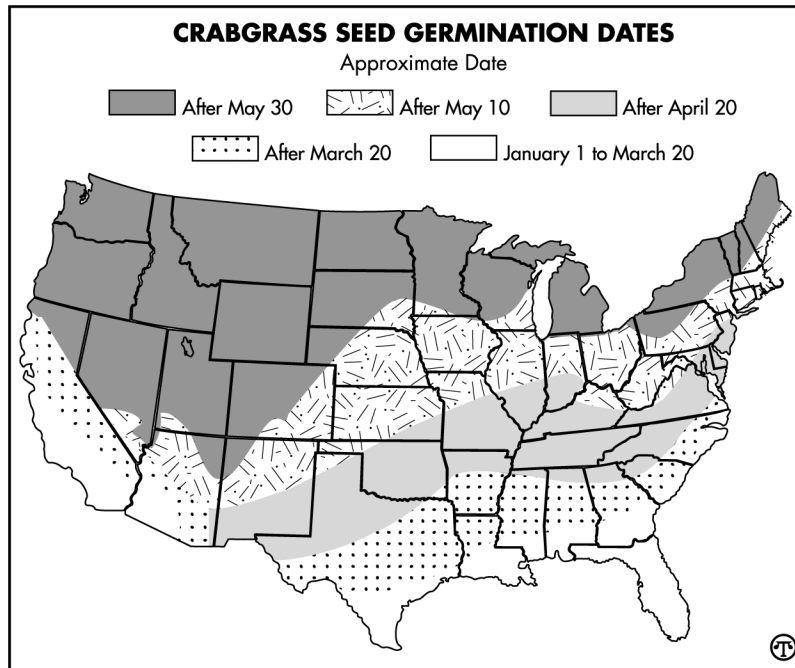


LAWN & GARDEN TIPS

Finding The Right Time To Tackle Crabgrass



Applying a crabgrass preventer at the proper time of the year can result in lush, green lawns. Call 1-800-987-0467 for further information.

(NAPS)—“Timing is everything.” This age-old adage is especially true when you are trying to rid your lawn of pesky crabgrass.

The best time to beat the tenacious weed is just before it germinates. Because crabgrass germinates when soil temperatures reach 55°F, the proper time to use a crabgrass preventer could be as early as late winter or early spring (January through the beginning of March) in the deep south. Crabgrass germination periods migrate north as the year progresses, and may even be delayed until late April or May in northern climates. Then, remember that soil temperatures warm up faster on sunny southern slopes than they do when the lawn is shaded or on slopes facing north. By planning ahead, homeowners can beat this unsightly weed that chokes out healthy grass and leaves bare patches in the fall.

A popular crabgrass preventer, DIMENSION, has been formulated with fertilizers to work on crabgrass and 25 other weed species for up to five months, while nurturing the lawn and being safe to most turfgrasses and landscape flowers, trees and shrubs.

Fertilizers formulated with DIMENSION crabgrass preventer can be applied up to eight weeks before germination and as many

as four weeks after. This 12-week long application window means greater flexibility for homeowners, enabling them to treat already germinated weeds that other herbicides may miss.

Here are a few more tips homeowners can use to beat crabgrass:

- Set mower blade height to about three inches, a height which prevents weeds from sprouting.
- Keep blades sharp and mow frequently.
- If there is little or no rain, thoroughly water the lawn at least once a week.
- Spread extra seed to cover bare spots in the late summer or early fall so young grass shoots have plenty of time to develop before the following spring.
- Dandelions may mean the grass is too short or that there is too little fertilizer or that the lawn has been watered too much.

- Save time with fertilizer products formulated with DIMENSION crabgrass preventer, which fertilizes while preventing weeds at the same time. The non-staining DIMENSION formula does not require more than one treatment.

For more information, write to Dimension Crabgrass Preventer, Rohm and Haas Company, 100 Independence Mall West, Philadelphia, PA 19106, or call 1-800-987-0467, or visit the Web site at www.crabgrass.com.