

## Crabgrass, Bermudagrass and Puncturevine

### Puncturevine

Known by many names, including Tackweed and Goathead, Puncturevine grows as a summer annual in colder climates. Seeds may remain viable for up to 7 years. From the time the seed sprouts until it blooms and starts to form seed can vary, but usually only takes 2 - 3 weeks. A typical puncturevine plant will produce 200 to 5,000 seeds during one growing season.

Many of the herbicides used for Puncturevine are those used for Crabgrass control. Preemergents such as Pendimethalin are a good choice but may need to be applied more than once a season depending on moisture conditions or viability of the product in the soil. **Always follow label directions.**



Puncturevine



### To Promote a Healthy Lawn

- Fertilize (compost is fine) more heavily in autumn than spring. By autumn, frosts will have killed annuals like crabgrass and puncturevine.
- Don't let bare spots remain uncovered for long, else opportunistic weeds will take root. In the fall, fill in those bare spots by overseeding.
- Water lawns more deeply and less frequently. Lawns need about an inch of water per week.
- Mow "high", leaving the lawn grass at a height of 2 1/2"-3". This will allow the lawn grass to "protect its own turf" better, depriving weed seeds of the light they need to germinate.

### Using Preemergent Herbicides: DOs and DON'Ts

#### Do:

- Irrigate afterwards: water activates preemergent herbicides.
- Re-applying may be necessary. Herbicides have a specific lifespan depending on external factors. Because seedlings do not all germinate at once, re-application can kill some of the later-germinating seed.
- Follow label directions and apply the proper rate. Measure the lawn area and calibrate your spreader carefully.

#### Don't:

- **Don't** dethatch or aerate the lawn after applying preemergent herbicides.
- **Don't** apply preemergent herbicides on new sod.

**The Control Options listed in this publication are meant as a guide and do not reflect the complete list of options, herbicides or combinations available nor do they endorse any of the products mentioned. The FCNWCB is not liable for applications of herbicides that do not follow the label. The LABEL IS THE LAW and the FCNWCB will not be held liable for any misapplications. 12/10**

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Crabgrass

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# Crabgrass, Bermudagrass and Puncturevine

**Weeds** are undesirable plants growing in one particular place. It's your point of view as to what makes a weed a weed. Some weeds are invasive and fast growing. Other weeds are extremely noxious and cause problems for humans, animals or native and natural habitat. The most common questions asked by homeowners is how to control Crabgrass, Bermudagrass and Puncturevine.

## Crabgrass

Crabgrass sprawls from a central root low across the ground. It can become a problem quickly because it is able to grow vigorously in hot, dry conditions. Before dying in the fall, a single weed can distribute thousands of seeds which will be ready to germinate in spring.

Crabgrass can be managed by a variety of cultural and chemical controls. Controlling crabgrass before it sets seed is important, because the seeds can remain viable for at least 3 years.



Crabgrass

**No single herbicide**, weeding technique or lawn care tactic works against all weeds. How you attack the weeds in your lawn depends on which you have. The best way to control weeds in your yard is to grow a thick, vigorous lawn. Dense grass crowds out weeds and blocks the sunlight their seeds need to germinate.

Herbicides are one tool that can be used to manage nuisance and noxious weeds.

| Weeds Controlled        | Product   | Herbicide                                   |
|-------------------------|---|---|
| Bermudagrass            | Bayer Advanced- Bermudagrass Control For Lawns                  | Fenoxaprop                                  |
| Bermudagrass            | Turflan Ester - Controls Broadleaf Weeds & Bermudagrass in Turf | Triclopyr                                   |
| Bermudagrass            | Pylex - Bermudagrass control in Turf                            | Topramezone                                 |
| Bermudagrass            | Last Call- Bermudagrass Control in Turf                         | Fenoxaprop + Fluoroxypyr + Dicamba          |
| Crabgrass, Puncturevine | Bayer Advanced All-in-One Lawn Weed & Crabgrass Killer          | 2,4-D + Quinclorac + Dicamba                |
| Crabgrass               | Ortho Weed-B-Gon Crabgrass Killer for Lawns                     | Calcium Acid Methanearsonate                |
| Crabgrass, Puncturevine | Pendulum  | Pendimethalin                               |
| Crabgrass               | Scotts HALTS Crabgrass Preventer                                | Pendimethalin                               |
| Crabgrass               | Ortho Weed-B-Gon Max Plus Crabgrass Control                     | Quinclorac + MCPP + 2,4-D + Dicamba         |
| Crabgrass, Puncturevine | Preen Garden Weed Preventer                                     | Trifluralin                                 |
| Crabgrass, Sandbur      | Ortho Grass-B-Gon   | Fluazifop                                   |
| Kochia & Broadleaf      | Foundation- Control of Kochia & Tough Broadleaf Weeds in Turf   | Sulfentrazone + Triclopyr + 2,4-D + Dicamba |
| Nutsedge                | Ortho Nutsedge killer for Lawns                                 | Sulfentrazone                               |
| Puncturevine            | Bayer Advanced Season Long Weed Control                         | 2,4-D + Isoxaben + MCPP + Dicamba           |

This is a sample of herbicides available in Tri-Cities in the spring of 2016. This is not a complete list nor is this an endorsement of any of the products mentioned.

**Read and follow all label directions. Choose a product compatible with your goals.**

## Bermudagrass

Bermudagrass is a low-growing, wiry perennial that has two types of shoots: those above ground (stolons) and those below ground (rhizomes). The stolons and rhizomes are capable of rooting in the soil, thus creating new plants as they grow out from the original plant or when they are cut and left on moist soil.

Bermudagrass is not an easy weed to control, especially when it must be controlled selectively within an already planted turf, garden, or landscaped area. It can be managed nonchemically with a persistent program of removal, or over large areas by cultivation and by withholding water during the summer to desiccate the stolons and rhizomes. Mulches of black plastic or geotextile landscape fabric can also be effective over large areas if light is excluded.

Control with herbicides requires careful timing and often more than one application over multiple years. Applications begin in the fall of each year spaced 3 weeks apart.



Bermudagrass