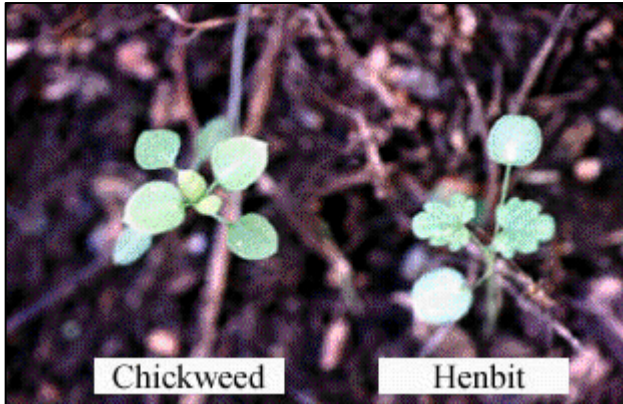


Fall Broadleaf Weed Control Update

By Matt Fagerness, Turfgrass Specialist, Kansas State University



The good news is we've finally had some much-needed rainfall. However, the bad news is it seems broadleaf weeds have consequently exploded in number. This is, in part, because severe summer conditions this year thinned out a lot of established turf stands and provided some space for weeds to grow. In spite of it being only a month away from when we typically pack up the lawn mower for the winter, it is still a good time to use a broadleaf weed killer.

Temperatures are currently optimum for cool-season turf but also for weeds like dandelions so herbicides should be highly effective. Weeds such as dandelions have just recently started producing new leaves but are also translocating food to the root system in preparation for winter. Consequently, fall-applied herbicides are translocated with the food stream to the roots and the entire plant is killed.

I mentioned in a previous article that broadleaf herbicides should be avoided with newly seeded areas. Well, we're now to the point where newly seeded areas are starting to need mowing and the use of herbicides is becoming more relevant. Make sure you've mowed twice with new turf areas before using a herbicide. Even if this pushes you into mid-November, the herbicide will still help knock perennials like dandelions back enough to give you the advantage next spring.

A few final reminders: 1) with liquid or soluble broadleaf herbicides, do not mow for several days before and after the application to allow for maximum uptake and translocation of the herbicide, 2) do not water for at least 24 hours after application, and do not treat if rain is expected within 24 hours, and 3) always read and follow the herbicide label instructions carefully to maximize the efficiency of your applications!

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The TGOA/MGCA national web site thanks the author for submitting this article on November 1, 2000. Tracking number: WSP100011010033