

We haven't forgotten about your lawn!

We are on schedule, and heading to your lawn soon. **—THE OPTIMUM TIME TO BE TREATED—**

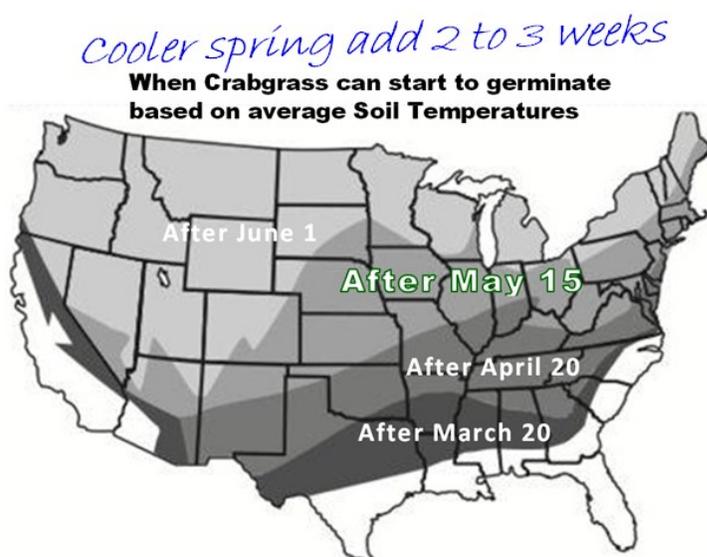


Timing is important for both weed control and fertilizer and you're in the sweet spot, even if it gets warmer a couple days here and there, it's the soil temperature that matters.

We believe that doing lawn care the way it should be gives your lawn the best long term results, as our first priority is not hanging a bill as early as possible but giving you the best results possible. Like the potential bonus additional service now available plus information on -"If not crab grass what kind of crappy grass do I have"— both detailed on the next page.

When we are out we will be treating for Crabgrass, a summer annual— rest assured if crabgrass ever comes up in June, July or August, we will treat it any time we see it on its regular schedule and it's no charge. Also if at anytime you see newly growing Crabgrass that is light in color like corn when it first comes up please let us know and we will run a service call. If it's April, May or even early June you are most likely seeing a perennial grass like Quack Grass or Tall Fescue. The way to stop crabgrass from coming up each year is by using Pre-emergent and that is what we put down in round 1 with fertilizer. It comes in several different active ingredients that will stop seed before it emerges, specifically it stops it from completing its germination cycle.

Many assume Pre-emergent kills crabgrass seed, but to be precise it kills it only when the seed starts to grow. That seed starts to grow when consistent soil temperatures are greater than 55 to 64F° for 7-10 consecutive days and continues until soils reach 95F°. So, at night if the soil temperature goes below 55 to 64F° then the consecutive days are reset. Other annual grasses germinate as soils get warmer. After this, the soil temperature is right for the seed to start germinating, so it is important for your pre-emergent to still be doing its job all the way until August. So more importantly, it has to be strong enough to stop germination for months with rain storms degrading the barrier. *So it's NOT how early the treatment is, but how much residual pre-emergent barrier is there when the germination temperatures are met and able to stop seeds that will to continue to germinate through the summer.



Applying fertilizer to your lawn too early is not best.

Lawns should be actively growing before additional fertilizer is applied. Fertilizer breaking down from the last treatment of the previous year should supply any needs until we are out for your first treatment. Research has shown that in the early spring, grass roots thrive, forming a network of deep roots. Deep roots will help your lawn survive hot, dry summer weather. Applying fertilizer too early will promote grass shoot growth at the expense of root development. Lawn fungus/disease develops easily on these kinds of lawns.

BONUS- Broadleaf weed control can be applied in the last 2-4 weeks of round 1, depending on soil temperatures.

When we are out to apply your round one, many are happy to find out we can spray broadleaf weeds, dandelions etc. Pre-emergent weed control is usually available to be applied in any program but a big plus with getting round 1 done in late spring is the addition of broadleaf weed control. This can be applied because ground temps are warm enough to get results, on average this is some time around the beginning of May (every year is different). When out earlier we would not be able to get good broadleaf weed control results. ***Note- If you're a new customer, next spring you should see far less weeds** with our fall applications for broadleaf biennials like dandelions and thistles, taking out most of this first wave of weeds before you see them in the spring.

I have crappy looking grass NOW -SO WHAT IS THIS BAD LOOKING GRASS? At this time of year you're most likely looking at a PERENNIAL grassy weed, a large bladed grass that grows faster than the other finer consistent color and textured grasses. In the spring until about June you're most likely looking at a perennial grass like Quackgrass, or Tall Fescue. (Note: there are other grassy weeds with biannual and perennial life cycles.) Both Quackgrass and Tall Fescue are PERENNIALS, meaning that once they get into a lawn, they come up every year, like the perennial Bluegrass, Ryegrass, and Fine Fescue that make up your cool season turf. In fact, Quackgrass is very easily

spread through seeds or just little bits of roots. Because these grasses are cool season perennials in a cool season perennial grass lawn, there are limited options in the applicators tool box. There is no easy way to get rid of them without some short term kill spots or thinning. It takes special methods that are not part of the regular program. Our Tall Fescue Control treatment can selectively kill it, without killing the Bluegrass. The Quackgrass, however, is only controllable by using a post-emergent, non-selective control (similar to Round Up) and then seeding the killed area. Please let us know if you would like to talk about your options. If you would like to go over your grasses and identify what you have, just let us know. Or you can contact the state extension office. Also check out our problem grasses information page in [problem solver](#).

MORE ABOUT CRAPPY GRASS- <https://aaronsgreenscape.com/problem-weed-grasses>

Information on proper timing from a trusted source

Managing Crabgrass in Home Lawns

Crabgrass and other annual grassy weeds are common problems in home lawns that can be treated through chemical and nonchemical methods. Proper lawn care practices to encourage a dense stand of vigorous grass are the best way to prevent weeds from invading. For example, mowing height can have a big impact. Lawns mowed higher (over 2½ inches) tend to have less problems with annual grasses such as crabgrass. Close-mowed lawns tend to open up, allowing weeds like crabgrass to invade. Light, frequent watering also favors crabgrass. Crabgrass often invades areas seeded in late spring because of bare soil, frequent watering, and the onset of hot weather - all ideal for its growth.

Herbicides (weed killers) are also available to manage annual weeds. Preemergence herbicides prevent annual grassy weeds such as crabgrass from emerging. The timing of applying herbicides is important, as the control product should be applied before the crabgrass emerges from the soil. Crabgrass will germinate when soil temperatures are greater than 55 to 60F° for 7-10 consecutive days, and continues until soils reach 95F°. Other annual grasses germinate as soils get warmer than 60 degrees.



Crabgrass is a light green, weedy grass that appears in summer.

For northern Illinois, April through the first half of May is the suggested time for applying a Preemergence crabgrass herbicide. If the spring is warmer consider late April, in colder "late" springs these materials can be put down through May.

Many preemergence crabgrass herbicides are available in combination with lawn fertilizer at garden supply stores, so the crabgrass prevention and spring fertilization can be done at the same time, yet an early spring fertilization may not be warranted based on your lawn maintenance program. In those instances, separate applications would be better.

The suggested strategy to avoid crabgrass next season would be to improve the lawn through cultural practices and consider a preemergence herbicide in spring. Until the conditions that promote crabgrass are corrected, crabgrass and other weeds in the lawn will continue to be a concern. Using cultural practices such as core aeration to reduce compaction, topdressing with organic matter, over-seeding to increase grass plant density, managing irrigation, managing thatch and mowing at the proper height will lessen the chances of crabgrass as a weed problem in the lawn.

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THE WAY IT SHOULD BE

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