

Enough is enough! Are you using enough product for wild violet control?

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Sometimes I believe that weeds are smarter than we are. They can always figure out a way to stick around and throw us a curve ball year after year. And this year is no different. I guess that is one thing that will keep turfgrass managers in business.

As we approach, or start to move into summer, I get lots of calls on how to control specific weeds and some very common weeds that have been studied by universities for decades. You would think by now we would be able to control them, but again, year after year they keep coming back.

The past two years we've had some non-agronomic influences that have impacted our decisions of what products to use in weed control programs. These economical impacts have pushed us to use different products that we haven't used in the past and in return we have had different results when it comes to weed control. There are so many products out there with different combinations of active ingredients and rates that it can make your head spin when trying to select the right product for the job, especially when it comes to broadleaf herbicides.



Wild Violets

To give you a good example let's talk about wild violet control. Around the mid-west we collectively call a couple different species of violet, wild violet. They include blue violet, woolly blue violet and confederate violet. For the purposes of this article, we are just going to call all of them wild violet. And right now, we are commonly trying to control wild violet because of the visible flowers seen in the turf. These are very difficult to control weeds because they are perennial and very persistent. But remember even though we are trying to control it now in the springtime the best timing for broadleaf weed control is in the fall.

Not all the broadleaf active ingredients or chemistries are going to control wild violet. And even if you use the right active ingredient, you had better make sure that you have enough of it to do the job. Otherwise, you will have to come back for another application when you could have controlled it the first time. Point blank, for best control of wild violet in cool season turfgrass, use triclopyr. Now there are many products out there that have triclopyr in the mixture but, is it enough to do the job. You will need at least 0.5 lbs ae/A of triclopyr for the best results. So, make sure you check the label of the combination herbicides you are using to ensure you have enough triclopyr for control. To make it easy on you here is a table that already calculates the amount of triclopyr at the low and high labeled rates, so you know exactly how much triclopyr is in each product.

Products that contain triclopyr and the amount of triclopyr at the low and high labeled rate in pounds of acid equivalent (ae) per acre.			
Product	Amount of triclopyr at the low and high labeled rate in pounds of acid equivalent (ae) per acre.	At the <u>LOWEST</u> labeled rate, contains at least 0.5 lbs ae/A of triclopyr	At the <u>HIGHEST</u> labeled rate, contains at least 0.5 lbs ae/A of triclopyr
4-Speed XT	0.06-0.14	NO	NO
Aquasweep, Chase 2 Amine	0.27-0.54	NO	YES
Battleship III	0.07-0.15	NO	NO
Chaser, Crossroad, Everett	0.25-0.5	NO	YES
Confront, 2-D	0.28-0.56	NO	YES
Cool Power, Three-way Ester II	0.09-0.13	NO	NO
Foundation	0.20-0.25	NO	NO
Horsepower, Eliminate	0.10-0.14	NO	NO
Momentum 4-Score	0.11-0.14	NO	NO
Momentum FX2	0.1-0.13	NO	NO
Sure Power, Tetra	0.06-0.10	NO	NO
Tailspin	0.38-0.75	NO	YES
Turflon Ester Ultra, Triclopyr 4, Trycera	0.5-1.0	YES	YES
Turflon II Amine	0.33-0.47	NO	NO
TZONE, TZONE SE, Triad TZ Select	0.13-0.25	NO	NO

This is just for one weed, but this concept is the same for many of the other difficult-to-control weeds. Ultimately, we have to do a little bit of homework to make sure we not only have the correct active ingredient for the weed we are wanting to control but make sure you have enough of it as well. Information from this article is from Turfgrass Weed Control for Professionals, 2022 Edition. This is a collaborative effort of turfgrass scientists across the United States including the University of Nebraska Lincoln.

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