April


Bluegrass Annual


Clover Perennial

WATCH FOR WEEDS

April is a good time for:


Crabgrass Annual

MOWING: Begin when turf is 4 to 4 1/2 inches tall. Set mower height to 3 inches. Remove only 1/3 of the overall grass height with each mowing.

FERTILIZING: Don't fertilize yet if your lawn looked good after winter and/or you fertilized in late fall. Excess fertilizer in early spring promotes top growth at the expense of root growth. Deeper roots are more resistant to pests and drought.


Dandelion Perennial

SEEDING: Seed only if you have a thin, weak lawn or bare spots. Depending on the species, grass will germinate when soil temperatures reach 45 to 55 degrees F at the 2 inch depth.

IRRIGATING: Spring rains should be sufficient.

SCOUTING: Search for large grubs, but do not apply insecticides because they will not be effective.


Ground Ivy Perennial

Establish thresholds for action:

- A weed is a plant growing in the wrong place.
- Bare spots or thin turf will allow weeds to grow. The best defense against weeds is a vigorous, dense stand of turfgrass.
- Before choosing a weed control option, make sure you know what weeds you have.
- Decide which species you can live with and which species you want to control.
- If you decide you can't live with a particular species, determine how many you need to see before you choose a control measure.
- If populations surpass your thresholds, make sure the control you choose is appropriate for the weeds unique life cycle and biology.
- Annual weeds die off and leave bare soil that is prone to increased runoff.
- Perennial weeds, if dense, can assist in maintaining density and minimizing runoff.

Weed Control Options:

Cultural: Try these techniques first if you have more weeds than you can tolerate.

- Mow at the proper height for the species of grass. Mowing higher helps desirable turf shade weeds out.
- Reduce soil compaction around areas of heavy wear.
- Weed by hand (best when soil is slightly moist).
- Reduce soil compaction adjacent to paved areas.
- If lawn is thin, fertilize to improve density.
- Chemical:
- Pre-emergence herbicides (most common for crabgrass, goosegrass) are applied to the soil before weeds are expected.
- Have low solubility and bind to organic matter, thus they have high runoff potential unless watered in properly.
- Post emergence herbicides (most common for perennial broadleaf weeds) are applied after weeds have emerged. They have high solubility and thus high leaching potential, and do not bind to organic matter. Avoid applying before intense irrigation or rainfall.
- Non-selective herbicides kill or injure all plants they come in contact with.


Knotweed (Indicates compaction)


Nutsedge


Plantain Perennial

If you choose a pesticide, be smart:

Use the right product at the right time. Follow label directions and keep accurate records to create a history.

Choose products that have the least potential for leaching into groundwater.

Use extreme caution when handling materials close to wells and impervious surfaces where runoff may enter storm sewers.

To avoid volatilization and drift, which release pesticides into the air, do not spray when temperatures are high or it's windy.

To help prevent polluted runoff, do not apply pesticides when heavy rains are expected or the ground is already saturated or frozen. 80% of lawn runoff occurs when soil is frozen.