

WEED CONTROL FOR NEWLY SPRIGGED BERMUDAGRASS

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One of the many challenges producers face when establishing a new stand of bermudagrass is initial weed pressure. Prior to land preparation for establishment of sprigs, it is important to eradicate any unwanted vegetation. Annual weeds may be controlled by thorough tillage; however, perennial weeds should be sprayed with a non-soil active herbicide such as glyphosate (Roundup) several weeks prior to tillage. This will allow re-treatment of any weed escapes prior to establishing bermudagrass. Any soil disturbance by plowing or disking promotes germination of weed seed. The use of a pre-emergence herbicide (applied prior to weed emergence) is one of the best defenses against early season competition with the newly established sprigs. Diuron and 2,4-D + dicamba products are labeled for application immediately after sprigging and can provide effective pre-emergence residual control (Table 1). However, be sure to check the label to ensure your product is labeled for pre-emergent application. Post-emergent herbicide treatments may still be necessary after sprig establishment. Newly established sprigs are more sensitive to herbicides than established stands of bermudagrass, therefore, you should observe treatment timings recommended in Table 2 to avoid injury. Herbicide selection, rate, and growing conditions are critical in preventing injury to sprigs. Always read and follow label instructions for any herbicide/pesticide/insecticide.

The label is the law.

Table 1. Pre-Emergent Herbicides

Herbicide	Rate/Acre Broadcast
Direx 4L (diuron)	0.8-2.4 quart/acre
Comments: Apply Direx immediately after sprigging and rolling to control annual broadleaves and grasses (up to 4" in height). For control of emerged annual weeds up to 4 inches in height, apply 0.4 to 0.8 quarts per acre. Bermudagrass sprigs should be planted 2-3 inches deep to minimize damage. Emerged bermudagrass at the time of treatment may be temporarily injured. Direx is not labeled for use in established bermudagrass hayfields and pastures.	
Weedmaster (2,4-D & Dicamba)	2 to 4 pints/acre
Comments: Best results will be obtained if Weedmaster is applied 7 to 10 days after planting. Reduced control can be expected if weeds are allowed to reach 1" in height before application.	

Table 2. Post-Emergent Herbicides

Herbicide	Rate/Acre Broadcast
Outrider (Sulfosulfuron)	1.33 oz/acre
Comments: Apply Outrider at 1.33 oz/ac to control johnsongrass, yellow and purple nutsedge, and other weeds four weeks after the emergence of the newly established bermudagrass. Addition of non-ionic surfactant at 1-qt/100 gallons is required. A follow-up application of Outrider can be made when sufficient weed regrowth is observed, but no sooner than four weeks after the previous application.	
2,4-D amine/ester	1.0-2.0 quart/acre
Comments: Apply 2,4-D to emerged broadleaf weeds 3-4 inches tall. Use non-volatile amine formulations from late March through September. Do not apply more than 2.0 qt per acre per season. Do not make more than two applications per year. Minimum interval between sequential applications is 30 days.	
PasturAll (2,4-D & Aminopyralid)	1.5- 2 pints/acre
Comments: PasturAll should be applied only after perennial grasses are well established (have developed a good secondary root system and show good vigor).	
Surmount (Picloram & Fluroxypyr)	1.5-6.0 pints/acre
Comments: Apply at 1.5 pt/acre to sprigged bermudagrass once stolons (runners) have reached six inches in length and growing conditions are favorable.	

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