

PRE-EMERGENTS FOR YOUR LAWNS

We are now in a time of very cold temperatures and working on our lawns has greatly slowed down. However, we are approaching the time that those who care for their lawns should be getting ready to apply preemergents to their yards. Both Fescue and Bermuda grasses call for preemergent applications in February and March. To the homeowner, the many brands of preemergents available can be confusing. So, before going out to purchase a preemergent, get to know the type of grass you have and what type of preemergents are recommended. Also, the type of pre-emergents (liquid or granules) may depend of what type of application tools is available. In most cases the home owners will find the use of granulated pre-emergents a little easier and handier than the use of a spray or liquid application. After the use of either one or the other of these pre-emergents, you will be required to water the lawn and to follow the watering times and amounts of water per instructions on the label.

The proper use of pre-emergents can help to decrease the need for post-emergent applications which are used in getting rid of weeds that are already up and growing in lawns. Never use pre-emergents when you will be over-seeding a yard or putting down sod. It will literally kill the grass seed. Each product will have different times to wait before you seed or lay sod. So, carefully read the product label as it will provide you with the correct information.

For Bermuda grass, in addition to the February/March application, there is another opportunity in the May/June timeframe for application of pre-emergents. Then, late summer/early fall (August through September) will be another time for lawn pre-emergent application.

Just remember this: pre-emergent herbicides are NOT weed killers, but are weed preventers. Also, with all of this said, the most effective preventative measure is to cultivate a healthy, thick lawn which prevents weed seed germination and crowds existing weeds, up to 70% effective.

For more information on pre-emergent herbicides, what type, how to apply the many pre-emergent herbicides as well as many tips on lawn maintenance, visit our web site:

www.tulsamastergardeners.org

Select *Lawn & Garden Help*, then *Turfgrass*