

September 18, 2005

NEWS RELEASE FROM THE OFFICE OF:

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Winter Annual Weeds—It's Time To Treat For These Pests!

Winter annual weeds stand out like a sore thumb, especially when your warm season lawn grass is dormant. They can invade many areas within your landscape, especially those sites where the turf density has been reduced and bare soil exists. Therefore, making sure you go into the winter months with a healthy, dense turfgrass is your best defense against these winter pests. Another approach is to use a pre-emergent herbicide to control them.

Winter annual weeds germinate in the late summer/early fall season. They will live during the winter and mature in the spring, then die. These are plants that come back each year from seed. Examples of winter annual weeds include: annual ryegrass, annual bluegrass, rescue grass, bur-clover, chickweed, henbit, and mustard weeds. Control of these weeds can be accomplished, but applications of the correct pre-emergent herbicide have to be made at the proper time. In North Texas, applications may be needed in late August. In South Texas, pre-emergent herbicide applications can wait until September. Remember, you are controlling germinating seeds—so this pre-emergent herbicide needs to be applied prior to germination. If you are working with a lawn care company, visit with them about their approach to these pests—sometimes they use products that will control the weeds prior to or just after germination. It is always good to have communication between you and the company you are working with. Finally, please make sure you read the labels on all pesticides and calibrate your spreader/sprayer.

Fall Fertilization For Your Home Lawn!

Once again, we are approaching the fall season. Have you decided what type of fertilizer you are going to use on your lawn? Have you taken a soil sample to determine what nutrients are deficient in your soil?

Fall fertilization is a very important part of a good nutrient management program for your lawn. You certainly want to have your turfgrass in great condition as we move into the winter

period. Avoid applications of excessive nitrogen during this period, especially with a quick-release nitrogen fertilizer source. It could lead to disease problems. On the other hand, you don't want to use a fertilizer with an extremely slow-release nitrogen component—this could lead to excessive nitrate nitrogen left over into the winter months that may be susceptible to leaching into our groundwater. Make your last fertilizer application at least 30 days prior to the first frost date in your area. Take the time now to take a sample of your soil and have it tested at one of the soil testing labs. The lab will recommend the correct fertilizer for your lawn. The cost is only \$10. It will pay dividends on your lawn and our environment!

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