

Earth Carpet®

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THE BLADE



WHEN TO APPLY PREEMERGENT CRABGRASS CONTROL

Much has been debated over when is the best time to apply preemergent crabgrass control. Do I watch my neighbor, is it when forynthia blooms or when maple leaves are the size of squirrel ears? Consider the following:

- **Crabgrass seeds germinate predominately in the top 0-2 inches of soil.** They do best in hot air temperatures because they are a warm season grass and thrive in those months that cool season grasses falter. Because the majority of crabgrass seeds germinate when soil temps are consistently between 60 and 70 degrees F, the time to apply your preemergent control is BEFORE soil temps reach that level, or 50-55 degrees F. A soil thermometer can be used to test the temperature.
- **Treating vs. not treating and number of applications is very much a cost decision.** It all depends on how much control you are looking for. You can achieve excellent control, but may need up to two applications. If the early Spring goal is to thicken up your turf density, seed may be a much more economical approach. In addition to spot spraying crabgrass during the summer with a product like quinclorac (Drive).
- **Crabgrass will become more unsightly as the growing season progresses.** Application at 50-55 degrees F soil temperatures will allow fairly good season long control with the .10 Dimension products. If longer control is desired, use a .38 Barricade product as it will extend the control in warmer, longer season climates such as the transition zone.



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