

NEWS COLUMN

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September 16, 2011

Fall Conditions Ideal for Treating Dandelions and Other Lawn Weeds

Conditions this fall are prime for treating lawn weeds such as dandelions.

All herbicides can be effective for perennials such as dandelion, white clover, groundivy, wild violet, plantain, field bindweed and thistle. Most of those weeds continue to grow after initial frost, and weeds such as dandelion will tolerate temperatures as low as the mid-20s.

Waiting for a light frost that shuts down broadleaf shrubs and other sensitive plants reduces the risk of harm of desirable species.

Most common products for home lawn use contain a combination of products for broadleaf weeds, including 2,4-D, MCP, 2,4-DP or dicamba. Spray formulations are more effective than granules for many situations.

A repeat application in 10 to 14 days is necessary for groundivy and wild violet. A product with a triclopyr component is considered more effective on wild violet.

Follow safety guidelines and target the spray where you want it. Delay mowing for a few days before spraying to allow extra growth, and don't mow for two or three days after treating.

Wait until spray is dry, or 24 hours, before allowing children or pets into the treated area.