



Spring Weed & Crabgrass Advice

April showers bring May flowers... and also the best time to deter those pesky weeds and crabgrass before they dominate your lawn. Following is some helpful advice regarding weed and crabgrass control. Being proactive early in the growing season is key!

Mulch Beds – Cutback and remove dead plant material and debris, remove weeds, apply a pre-emergent according to label instructions, and top with at least 1” of fresh mulch. Pre-emergent herbicides help prevent many undesirable weeds, including crabgrass, for up to 3 months or longer. Timing: February - May; earlier is better, before perennials “wakeup.”

Lawns – Maintaining a deep-rooted lush lawn is the best defense against weeds and other lawn problems. In spring, spot spray with a selective herbicide or remove existing weeds, apply fertilizer combined with a pre-emergent herbicide to your lawn according to label instructions. Selective herbicides will control weeds and not harm your desirable grasses. Pre-emergent will help deter future weed growth, including crabgrass. Extensive seeding in spring is not recommended; the best time to seed is late summer-fall. Timing: February - May; March - April is optimum.

Broadleaf Weeds – Spring is the best time of year to spray for broadleaf weeds - dandelions, clover, chickweed, thistle, wild violet, wild onions, to name a few. Herbicide (granular or liquid) should be applied AFTER the weeds are visible and actively growing but BEFORE it gets too warm outside.

Irrigation – In general, lawns and established plants should not need regularly scheduled watering until late April or early May at the earliest. The key to proper irrigation, especially in the summer months, is deep infrequent watering. Set your automatic irrigation system to run once a week, on average, from May-September; avoid running system within 2-3 days of scheduled mowing.