

Best Management Practices: Broadleaf Weed Management with QuickSilver

Description

Broadleaf weeds can dramatically affect the overall aesthetics of turfgrass whether it is a home lawn, golf course or other setting. Some weeds, like dollarweed, are more aggressive in growth and are capable of forming dense populations. Others, like dandelion, are bunch type weeds that produce multiple leaves that shade out the desirable turf. Regardless the species, all disrupt and reduce turfgrass competitiveness if management practices are not implemented.

Identification

Dandelion - Perennial broadleaf weed with basal leaf arrangement. This weed produces a deep taproot. Dandelion leaf margins are deeply lobed almost down to the leaf midvein. The lobe tips point back to the base of the plant. This is a key identification characteristic separating dandelion from weeds like fleabane or plantains. The most recognized characteristics of dandelion are the flower and seedhead. Dandelion produces a relatively large yellow flower, which is most noticeable in the spring. Shortly after flowering, dandelion produces a white, puffy seedhead commonly referred to as the “puff ball” growth stage. This puffy structure is composed of many individual seeds that are easily dispersed by wind.



Dollarweed – Perennial weed that spreads primarily by rhizomes and seeds. They produce shiny, dark green leaves with crenate (shallow-lobed) margins. Each leaf is attached to a long petiole emerging from rhizomes. The petiole attaches in the center on the underside of this circular leaf. In summer, dollarweed produces a small, white flower similar in appearance to wild carrot or Queen Anne’s Lace. This weed is often found in low areas that are poorly drained, and can survive mowing heights from home lawns down to fairway height on golf courses. Dollarweed is commonly found in coastal states like the Carolinas over to Texas, but has also been documented in other states.



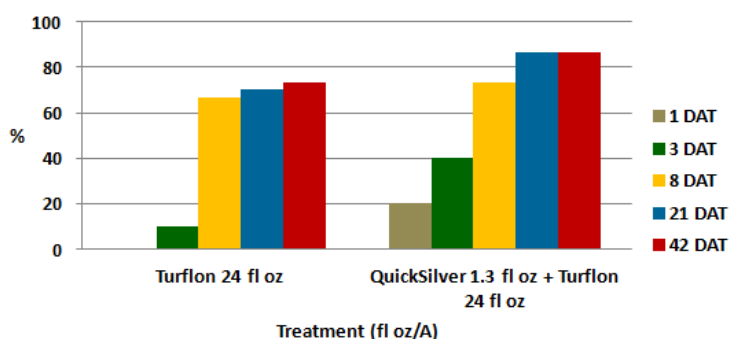
Management

Cultural - Broadleaf weeds take advantage of voids in the turfgrass canopy where the desired turfgrass has been stressed due to either environmental or mechanical factors. Their wide leaf blades shade out desirable turfgrass. The best cultural control methods for broadleaf weeds involve creating the best growing environment for the turfgrass by providing balanced fertility, adequate moisture, and proper mowing. Research has shown that reducing irrigation or improving drainage can decrease dollarweed populations. Similarly, increasing fertility levels can reduce dandelion populations. In both situations, the desirable turfgrass becomes more competitive.

Chemical – In cool season turf, broadleaf weed herbicides used for dandelion control are applied in both spring and fall. Fall applications are best timed from September to October when the weeds are actively growing. During this time, weeds are preparing to overwinter by translocating carbohydrates into their underground reproductive structures. Systemic herbicides that translocate down to the roots can produce more effective weed control by taking advantage of this naturally occurring process. Spring applications are applied during the puff ball growth stage for dandelion. For warm-season turf, dandelion is controlled by spring applications using the same timing as described above. Dollarweed control can be a year-long battle depending upon geographic location. FMC offers some very effective options for chemical control of the previously described broadleaf weeds. No matter what your typical broadleaf weed herbicide of choice is, add QuickSilver to the tank. QuickSilver will speed up the activity you see on these weeds as well as increase the efficacy of your broadleaf weed herbicide.

QuickSilver Increases Efficacy of Broadleaf Herbicides

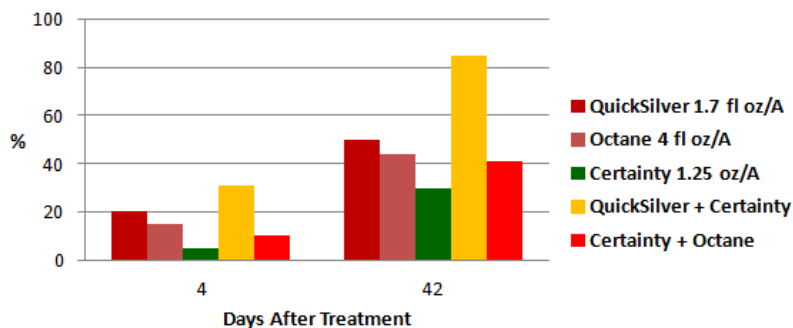
Dandelion Control



Wetson 2003, Cornell University

QuickSilver Offers Increased Speed and More Effective Control

QuickSilver in tank-mix applications offers better control of Dollarweed than Octane at less than half the use rate



Brecke 2007, University of Florida

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