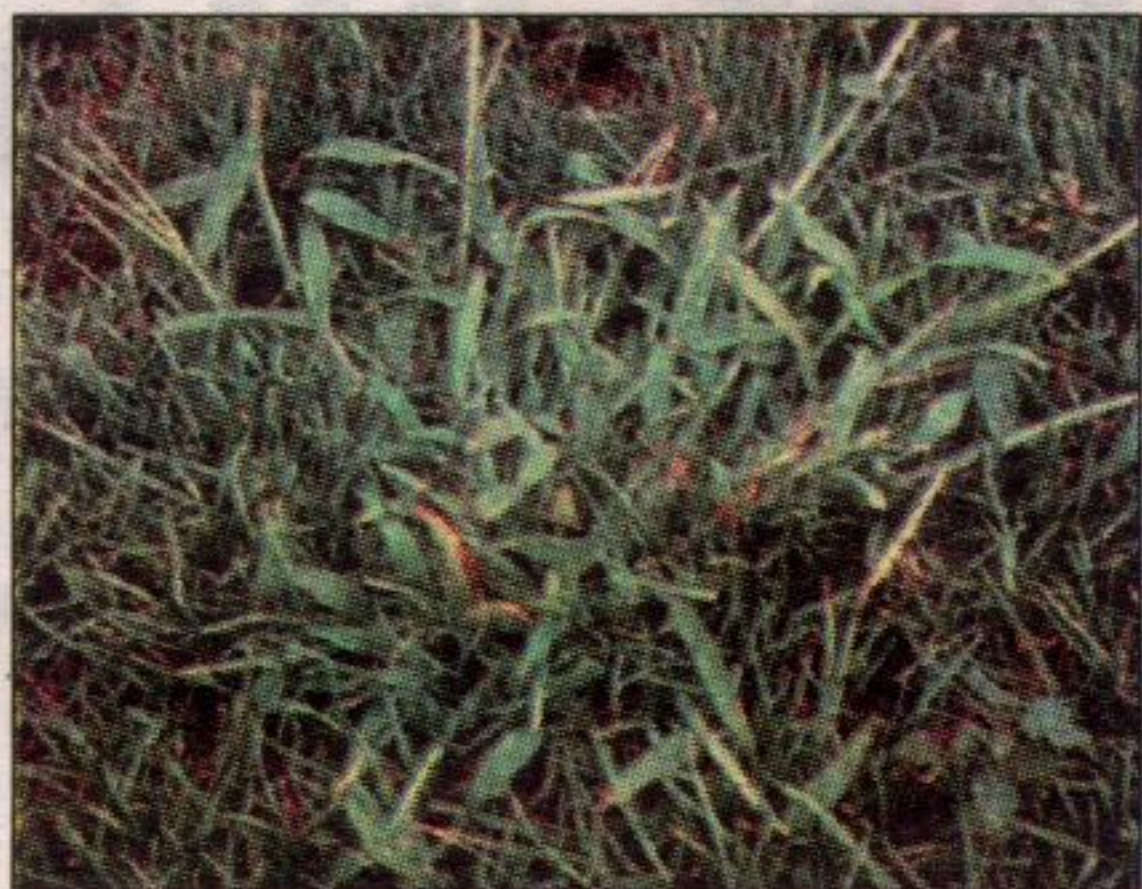


Crabgrass control strategies

Do you have a crabgrass problem in your lawn? You'll recognize the symptoms in the late summer, especially if you've noticed patches of coarse green/purple grasses in your lawn.

Crabgrass can spread particularly quickly around the edges of the lawn, and along driveways and paths. The problem is most prevalent in Ontario.

It's an ugly grass weed that invades weaker areas of the lawn and gradually takes over, creating thin, off-colour patches that detract from the lawn's overall appearance. In late spring the plants are a light, lime green colour with wide,



short blades. If such plants appear in the lawn as soon as the snow disappears, they are not crabgrass, and won't be controlled by a crabgrass preventer.

Crabgrass control strategies

Crabgrass is an annual grass weed that must re-establish itself from seed each spring. This is the secret to effective crabgrass control... getting the preventer onto the soil early enough (before early June) to keep new seeds from germinating.

The easiest way to apply a crabgrass preventer is to spread it on with your early spring fertilizer application, around the time the forsythia blooms. Mow the lawn once before applying the preventer, so the granules can easily get down to the soil surface.

Avoid spreading crabgrass preventer

on newly seeded lawns, bentgrass lawns or vegetable gardens. The soil must be left undisturbed after application to allow the product to work on the ungerminated seeds. As always, be sure to read the product label carefully.

A healthy lawn: The best defence.

A lush, healthy lawn provides its own best defence against crabgrass, because it allows few areas for the weed seeds to germinate and establish new plants. Regular fertilization is the key to a healthy lawn... making sure the grass gets the complete nutrition it needs to fight weed competition and resist stress from summer drought.

A typical "four-step" lawn fertilization program might look like this:

1. Early Spring: Begin with a regular lawn fertilizer or a fertilizer with crabgrass control.
2. Early Summer: Regular fertilizer and Lawn WeedOut® to control broadleaf weeds, if necessary.
3. Late Summer: Regular fertilizer and if necessary an application of GrubOut® to control white grubs, chinch bugs and other lawn insects.
4. Late Fall: Fall fertilizer, a special blend to fight winter stress and encourage fast spring green-up. This may be the most important, but often overlooked lawn feeding.

—News Canada



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