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## Early action needed to control crabgrass

**D**o 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.

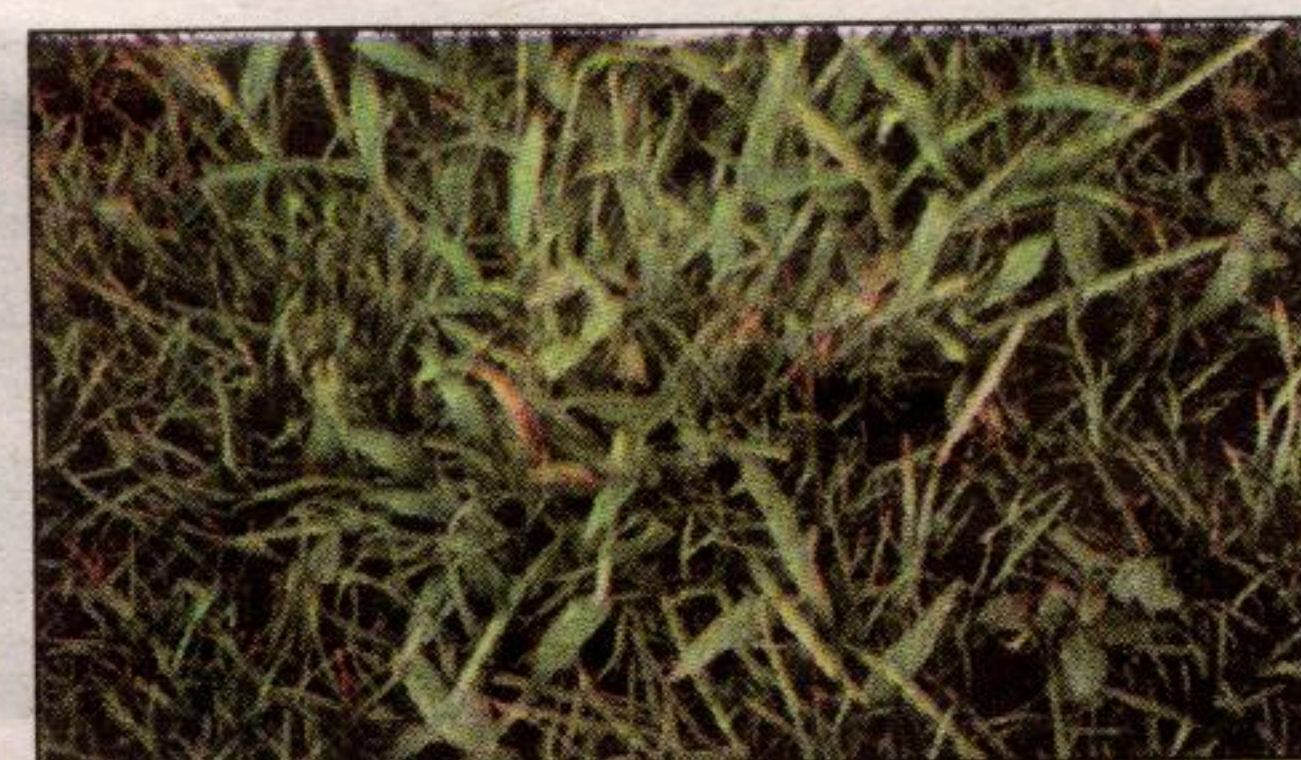
It's an ugly grass weed that invades weaker areas of the lawn and gradually takes over, creating thin, off-colour patches that detract from the lawn's overall appearance. In late spring the plants are a light, lime green colour with wide, short blades. If such plants appear in the lawn as soon as the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

C-I-L Golfgreen Lawn Fertilizer with Crabgrass Control works very well controlling the germinating seeds while it greens up the lawn. Avoid spreading crabgrass preventer on newly seed lawns, bentgrass lawns or vegetable gar-



dens. The soil must be left undisturbed after application to allow the product to work on the ungerminated seeds.

### 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.

Using a fertilizer with Double-Coated Nitrogen, such as C-I-L Golfgreen, will provide continuous feeding for 2 months and a healthy lawn that stays greener, longer.

—News Canada

**TOWN OF HALTON HILLS**  
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The 2005 Bang-O-Rama will take place in the Georgetown Fairgrounds on **May 20, 21, 22 and 23**. A Park admission charge will be in effect on the 23rd: general admission \$5.00 and family pass \$20.00 (maximum 6 members/family). There will be an admission charge to view the Jousting competition: \$10.00/child and \$15.00/adult. Please note that during the period from May 19-23, normal park operations will be suspended. Access to the Trafalgar Trail at Princess Anne Drive and Maple Avenue will be closed at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, May 23 and reopen Tuesday, May 24.

Please refrain from bringing backpacks, refreshments and personal fireworks e.g. sparklers.

**SPECIAL EVENT RESTRICTIONS**

Prior to admittance, we reserve the right to:

- Inspect all bags
- Refuse entry to anyone under the influence of alcohol or drugs
- Remove alcohol, drugs, weapons or other items detrimental to public safety from those seeking admittance.

During the event, please report any security issues to the Halton Police.

Contact the Recreation and Parks Department at (905) 873-2601, ext. 2269 for more information.

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