

Set up for success with pre-emergence herbicides in pastures and lawns

JANUARY 31, 2024

Pre-emergent herbicides are a tool used across the homeowner and ag producer worlds. In most cases, these herbicides work on annual plants as they begin the process of germinating from dormant seed. For this reason, timing is critical for success.

Ron Courtney, Northeast Texas sales representative with Envu (formerly Bayer Environmental Science), said that success is all about timing, and **early applications are on time** for pre-emergent products like Rezilon herbicide (indaziflam).



Figure 1. Soil temperature at 12-inch soil depth in Sherman, TX on January 31, 2024. (Photo by D. Chad Cummings)

“Please remember that now is the time to apply Rezilon to your pastures. There is a short window before the temperature starts to rise. When soil temperatures exceed 50°F, some seeds start to germinate. Once germinated, we cannot control the plant with pre-emergent herbicides,” he said.

Answer to the problem?

Apply pre-emergence herbicides now before there is germination. Remember there are several plant species that germinated in the fall 2023.



Figure 2. Emerged seedlings of oxalis, carpetweed, dichondra, and dandelion in February 2024. (Photo by D. Chad Cummings)

Marestail, cheatgrass, little barley, mustards, henbit, dandelion, and annual ryegrass are just some fall germinating plants.

If you did not apply Rezilon or other pre-emergent herbicides last summer/fall, these will emerge and be present this spring.



Figure 3. Young emerged plants of dandelion, chickweed, mustards, annual bluegrass, and black medic (January 31, 2024). (Photo by D. Chad Cummings)

Pre-emergent herbicides will not control biennial or perennial plants that have previously established growth.

Table 1. Pre-emergence herbicides for pastures.

Active ingredient	Trade name	Grazing Restrictions	Hay Harvest Restrictions	Rainfast interval	TDA License Required?
Indaziflam	Rezilon	None	None*	None	No
pendimethalin	Prowl H20	None	None	None	No

* For application rates of 3 oz Rezilon/acre or less, there is a 0-day haying restriction. For over 3 oz/acre rates, the haying restriction is 40 days.



Figure 4. Dandelion and other emerged plants in Sherman, TX (January 4, 2024). (Photo by D. Chad Cummings)

Table 2. Pre-emergence herbicides for lawns.

Active ingredient	Trade name	Notes or Comments	Target Weeds
Benefin	Balan; others	This product can be volatile and prone to loss if not watered-in properly. Pay attention to label recommendations	Grasses and some small seeded broadleaf weeds
Dithiopyr	Bonafide Duraturf; others	Offers early postemergence control of crabgrass, which creates some flexibility in application timing.	Grasses, some broadleaf weeds
Indaziflam	Spectacle; BioAdvanced 3 in 1 Weed and Feed	This active ingredient is currently only available in a limited number of homeowner products that may be designed to do multiple things. Follow label recommendations carefully before use to ensure all parts of the product are appropriate for your circumstances.	Grasses and broadleaf weeds
Oryzalin	Surflan; others	This herbicide thins overseeded grasses	Grasses, some broadleaf weeds
pendimethalin	Scotts Halts Crabgrass and Grass Weed Preventer	Can stain concrete areas. Use caution when applying to these areas.	Grasses, some broadleaf weeds
Prodiamine	Nitro-Phos Barricade; others	Can stain concrete areas. Use caution when applying to these areas.	Grasses, some broadleaf weeds

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Common season of germination for various weeds

Broadleaf weed	Common germination	Weedy grass	Common germination
Cool season plants			
Henbit	F to Sp*	Annual ryegrass	F to W
Mustards	F to W	Wild oats	F to Sp**
Chickweed	W to Sp	Annual bluegrass	F to W
Common geranium	W to Sp	Cheatgrass	F
Dandelion	F to Sp	Rescuegrass	F to W
Wild carrot	Sp		
Warm season plants			
Sunflowers	Sp to Su	Field sandbur	W to Su
Marshelder	Sp to Su	Large crabgrass	Sp to Su
Goatweed	Sp to F	Foxtail	Sp to Su
Bitterweed	Sp to F	Dallisgrass	Sp to Su
Snow on the mountain/ Snow on the prairie	Su	Speargrass/ Texas wintergrass	Sp to Su
Pigweeds	Su		
Ragweeds	Su		

* Fall= F; Winter= W; Spring= Sp; Summer= Su.

** Germination and emergence events can occur outside of normal timeframes if weather conditions vary too much from normal. For example, drought in the spring and summer can lead to additional late germination events of warm season annual plants in response to late summer rains. Drought in the fall can lead to late germination of cool season plants in response to winter or spring rains.

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Annual Bluegrass



Chickweed



Spurweed



Purple Deadnettle



Henbit



Carolina Geranium



Dichondra

Recorded and narrated by: Kaycee Davis M.S., County Extension Agent- ANR
Photos courtesy of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, the Texas A&M System and Michigan Extension

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Events Coming Up in NTX

Feb 6

- ASCO/Case IH/Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Northeast Texas Hay and Forage Seminar (*Denison*)

Feb 15

- Farm & Ranch Round Up (*Bonham*)

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2024-farm-and-ranch-roundup-tickets-809728839757?fbclid=IwAR0WvX1bhycHCOYI2gxjHpo tWferZ_pr9hMAlylOwnYphWAqd7KAaoKHStE

Feb 29

- Tri-County Farmer & Rancher Symposium (5 Ag CEUs) (*Gainesville*)

Feb 23

- Carrot Plant Family Identification and Management (*Sherman*)

Feb 25 - Mar 1

- Texoma Exposition and Livestock Show (youth) (TELS - *Denison*)

Feb 28

- Grayson County Master Gardeners Intern Class begins (*Sherman*)

April 27

- Grayson County Master Gardeners Spring Plant Sale (*Denison-Loy Lake*)

May 31

- NE TX Small Acreage, New Landowner Conference (*Farmersville*)

Visit our website at <https://grayson.agrilife.org/> to sign up for events.