Lawn care

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Bermudagrass is a warm season grass, so it will not start growing until late spring. It can be controlled with a pre-emergent since its roots are alive and ready to burst into action with warm soil temperatures.

It cannot really be controlled with a selective herbicide either since there is very little difference between bermudagrass and the desirable grass in your lawn — except you like one and dislike the other. For bermudagrass, we recommend spot treatment with a systemic herbicide that is non-selective (like glyphosate).

They also mention clover and other weeds. Clover is not an annual, so a pre-emergent herbicide will not control it. Instead, use a broadleaf herbicide specific for clover control (MCPA will work) once the clover is green and growing, but still young and susceptible to chemical control.

When you select a herbicide, you must know what it can control and what it cannot control. For example 2,4-D products will control broadleaf weeds but not grasses. The best strategy for controlling weeds and maintaining a healthy lawn is to promote healthy turf growth. Fertilize modestly, if at all, in the spring. Cut your grass at the appropriate height and frequency. Don't remove more than one-third of the leaf blade at any single mowing.

If, so if you have a fescue lawn and you want to maintain it at a height of 3 inches, cut the grass when it reaches 4 1⁄2 inches removing 1 inch (one-third of the leaf blade).

By following these guidelines, your grass is able to catch light and photosynthesize, producing its own food for healthy growth. Always use a sharp mower blade. Control weeds when they are young so they do not take over. If you want to learn all about managing a healthy lawn, go to the Delaware Lawn website at www.delawarelawn.org.