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SPECIAL
COLLECTION

Killing Weeds With 2,4-D

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BLACKSBURG, VIRGINIA

Dandelions, plantain and many other weeds that grow in grassy areas can be killed with little difficulty or expense by spraying them with 2,4-D. It is sold now in a form which can be mixed with water and applied as a spray, and it will soon be available as a ready-prepared dust.

2,4-D kills weeds slowly; sometimes a period of from two to three weeks may pass after application before the weeds actually die. 2,4-D not only kills the leaves and tops of most kinds of weeds but it also kills their roots. It does not injure most kinds of grasses which are commonly used in lawns and pastures.

How To Use 2,4-D on Lawns

2,4-D can best be applied to lawns by mixing it with water, then spraying the mixture evenly over the surface of the lawn. The chemical is being sold under various trade names. Some of these products are in liquid, and some are in powdered form. They can be obtained from most hardware, department, and seed stores.

In spraying a lawn with 2,4-D, first measure out an amount of liquid or powder as directed on the label of the preparation you obtain. Each manufacturer has tested his product and recommends the proper amount of it to be used. Mix the measured amount of liquid or powder with a measured amount of water as directed. Pour the mixture into an ordinary garden sprayer and apply the mixture evenly on the lawn so that the weed leaves are thoroughly wetted. Where only a few weeds are present in scattered areas, "spot" treatments will be found effective. The new 2,4-D dust applicator may be more convenient to use for spot treatment.

2,4-D is most effective when applied to young actively-growing weeds on moist soil when the air temperature is above 70°F. It is best not to mow the lawn for a few days following treatment. If a heavy rain falls within a period of a few hours after the lawn has been treated, it may decrease the effectiveness of the spray to some extent.

Plantain, dandelions, lawn pennywort, Indian strawberry, annual morning glory, daisy, heal-all, chickweed, Japanese honeysuckle, winter cress, and curled dock sprayed with 2,4-D become curled and twisted within a few days after treatment. The weeds generally die within a period of three weeks after they are sprayed. If cold weather prevails, they may live for a longer period. Some perennial weeds are not killed by 2,4-D; blue grass, fescue, red top and most other lawn and pasture grasses are not injured.

Precautions

Bent grass and many garden plants such as tomatoes, squash, beans, peas, and lettuce are injured by 2,4-D. Also ornamental plants such as forsythia and rose-bushes may be injured by 2,4-D. In treating lawns bordered by ornamentals, or weeds near a garden, care must be taken that the mist or dust from the 2,4-D does not settle on these plants.

Since most garden plants are extremely sensitive to 2,4-D, sprayers that have contained 2,4-D should not be used for spraying fungicides and insecticides on garden or ornamental plants, unless all traces of 2,4-D have been removed. 2,4-D is not considered poisonous to animals or man. It does not corrode spray equipment.

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