

Problem: Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale* Weber)



Description: Dandelion is a perennial herb that forms a rosette in lawns and gardens. The inflorescence is composed of yellow ray florets that give rise to a “puffball” head. New plants germinate primarily in the fall (late September).

Recommendations: Early November is the most effective time to control broadleaf weeds, including dandelions in lawns. Dandelion usually produces a flush of new plants in late September. These young plants are small and easily controlled with herbicides such as 2,4-D or combination products (Trimec, Weed-B-Gon, Weed-Out, others) that contain 2,4-D, MCPP and Dicamba. Even established dandelions are more easily controlled in the fall rather than in the spring because they are actively moving materials from the top portion of the plant to the roots where they will kill the plant from the roots up. Be sure to choose a day that is 50 degrees or higher for quicker results. The better the weed is growing, the more weed killer will be moved from the leaves to the roots. Cold temperatures will slow and eventually stop this process.

Weed Free Zone (also sold under the name of Trimec Speed Lawn Weed Killer) contains the three active ingredients mentioned above plus carfentrazone. It gives a quicker response than the other products mentioned when temperatures drop below 50 degrees.

References:

1. [Weed Control in Home Lawns](#), Kansas State University, K-State Research & Extension Publication MF-2385
2. [Control Broadleaf Weeds in Lawns in Late October - Early November](#), K-State Horticulture Newsletter Blog, October, 2019

Last Update: 10/25/2023

Brand names appearing in this publication are for product identification purposes only. No endorsement is intended, nor is criticism implied of similar products not mentioned.

“Knowledge for Life”

Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service