

Problem: Star-of-Bethlehem (*Ornithogalum umbellatum*)



Description: Star-of-Bethlehem is an herbaceous perennial that has been used as an ornamental. However, this plant is very invasive. This plant overwinters as a bulb with flowers produced in the spring. The white flowers have 6 petals. Look for a white or pale green stripe near the midrib on the leaves.

Recommendations: Plants can be dug out and discarded but make sure you get them all. Traditionally, we have not had a good chemical control for Star-of-Bethlehem. The best products we had were Coolpower (31.3% control) and Turflon Ester (23.8% control). Coolpower is a commercial only product, but Turflon Ester is available to both commercial and homeowner users. Research out of Virginia Tech has improved our outlook. Scientists there did a study in which they gained 96% control of Star-of-Bethlehem one month after treatment by using Quicksilver, a formulation of carfentrazone at the rate of 4 fl. oz/A. Quicksilver is a commercial only product, and therefore is not readily available to homeowners. However, both Speed Zone and Weed Free Zone contain carfentrazone and would certainly be worth a try if you have this troublesome plant.

References:

1. [Star of Bethlehem](#), Utah State University, Ornamental Pest Guide
2. [Star-of-Bethlehem](#), USDA Forest Service Weed of the Week

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