

Selective Herbicides for Florida's Lawn Weeds

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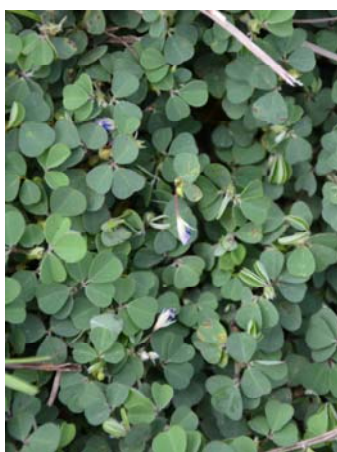
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The best approach to weed control is a healthy, vigorous lawn. Weed problems in a lawn indicate that the turf has been weakened by improper management or damage from pests. Proper management can eliminate many weed problems. If weeds are a persistent problem, herbicides labeled specifically for use for that grass should be used. Proper identification and some understanding of how and why weeds are present in a lawn are important when selecting an herbicide for weed control. The active ingredient is the compound that kills the weed. Many products have more than one active ingredient and are sometimes referred to as combination products. The inclusion of a brand name in this publication is not intended as an endorsement of the product. Use a pesticide at the correct dosage and intervals between applications to avoid illegal residues or injury to plants and animals. Read the entire label first, observe all precautions, and carefully follow all directions. "The label is the law."

Table 1 is a survey of selective turf herbicide available in Lee County at the time of publication in October, 2015. Survey locations included three Home Depot® and three Lowe's® stores, a John Deere Landscape Supply Center®, and Forestry Resources Landscape Supply®, Fort Myers. The table contains information from various labels including the herbicide active ingredients, types of lawns that can be treated, and the weeds controlled, suppressed or killed in those lawns. **Table 2** includes the herbicide brand names and their recommended use on St. Augustinegrass. Then there is a short list of '**Things to Know.**' Lastly, there are more pictures of some [common lawn weeds](#).



Beggarweed (creeping)
Desmodium incanum



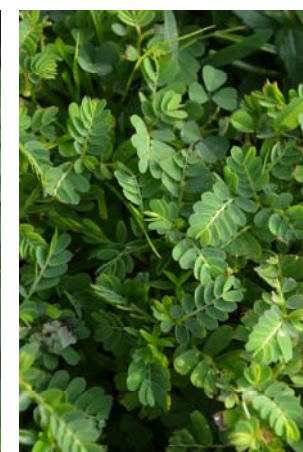
Beggarweed (threeflower)
Desmodium triflorum



Bermudagrass
Cynodon dactylon



Biden (Beggarticks,
Spanish Needle)
Bidens alba



Chamberbitter
Phyllanthus urinaria



Cinchweed (spreading)
Pectic prostrata

[More weed pictures on page 10](#)

Table 1. Active ingredients of selective herbicides for a variety of residential lawn grasses.

Active Ingredient/ Common Name	Use On	Control, Suppress or Kill	Additional Label Notes
2,4-D + Isoxaben + Mecoprop-p + Dicamba	St. Augustinegrass (see table 2), Bahigrass, Bermudagrass, Centipedegrass	<u>Broadleaves:</u> black medic, broadleaf dock, buck-horn, burdock, buttercup, Carolina geranium, chickweed, chicory, clovers, creeping Charlie, creeping Jenny, cudweed, daisy-fleabane, daisy-oxeye, dichondra, elderberry, FL betony, golden rod, jimsonweed, matchweed, nettle, oxalis, penny-crest, pepperweed, pigweed, plantain, poison ivy, poison oak, Spanish needles, spotted spurge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply anytime spring-fall at temperatures between 50-90°F. • Kills & prevent weeds up to 6 months • Use only on established lawns.
2,4-D + Mecoprop-p	St. Augustinegrass (see table 2), Bahigrass, Bermudagrass, Centipedegrass	<u>Broadleaves:</u> Aster, bittercrest, black medic, carpetweed, coast dandelion, chickory, clovers (hop, red & white), cudweed, curly dock, dichondra, fleabane, henbit, Lambsquarter, Lespedeza (seedlings), Lippia (matchweed), pigweed, purslane, pusley (<i>Richardia</i> spp.), ragweed, vetch, yarrow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply when daytime temperatures are between 60-90°F. • Tall grass should be mowed a day or two before application.
2,4-D + Mecoprop-p + Dicamba	St. Augustinegrass (see table 2), Bahigrass, Bermudagrass (common & hybrid), Centipedegrass, Zoyziagrass	<u>Broadleaves:</u> Beggartick, biden, chickweed, clovers, common purslane, cudweed, dandelion, dichondra, dog fennel, dollarweed (pennywort), elderberry, fleabane, FL pusley, goldenrod, henbit, Lespedeza, matchweed, morning glory, nettles, oxalis, pennywort, pigweed, plantain, poison ivy, poison oak, pokeweed, puncture vine, purslane, ragweed, rough fleabane, Spanish needle, speedwell, spurges, spiny amaranth, stinging nettle, thistle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply when daytime temperatures are below 85/90°F. • Spray when weeds are actively growing. • May cause discoloration of 'Floritam' but full recovery is expected. • Do not exceed 2 applications per year with a minimum of 30 days between applications.

Table 1. (Continued) Active ingredients of selective herbicides for a variety of residential lawn grasses.

Active Ingredient/ Common Name	Use On	Control, Suppress or Kill	Additional Label Notes
2,4-D + Mecoprop-p + Dicamba + Dithiopyr	St. Augustinegrass (see table 2), Bahigrass, Bermudagrass, Zoysiagrass	<u>Broadleaves:</u> Aster, beggarticks, black-eyed Susan, broadleaf plantain, Carolina geranium, carpetweed, chickweed-common, clovers, creeping Jenny, cudweed, curly dock, dichondra, dollarweed, daisy oxeye, Fl betony, Fl pusley, goldenrod, hawkweed, Lespedeza, nettle, oxalis, pennycress, pigweed, plantain, puncturevine, ragweed, sorrel, spotted spurge, spiny amaranth, thistle, speedwell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not to use on carpetgrass, 'Floritam' • Apply anytime spring thru fall when weeds are actively growing. • Up to 5 months of control.
Atrazine	St. Augustinegrass (see table 2), Centipedegrass, Zoysiagrass	<u>Broadleaves:</u> Black medic, Carolina geranium, chamber-bitter, common chickweed, clover-annual, dandelion, cudweed, cutleaf evening primrose, dichondra, dollarweed (pennywort), Fl betony, Fl pusley, henbit, knotweed, Lespedeza, pigweed, purslane, ragweed, spurge, stinging nettle, wild mustard, wood sorrel (oxalis) <u>Grasses:</u> Crabgrass (partial control), sandspur, smutgrass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use when temperatures are below 90°F. • Do not apply on muck or alkaline soils. • Do not apply in the root zones of trees, ornamental or vegetable or other desirable plants except listed grasses.
Bentazon	St. Augustinegrass (see table 2), Bermudagrass, Bahigrass, Centipedegrass, Zoysiagrass	<u>Broadleaves:</u> Beggartick, dandelion, dayflower, groundsel-common, prickly sida, purslane (common), ragweed, sesbania, spurweed, pigweed, plantain, wood sorrel <u>Sedges:</u> Purple & yellow nutsedges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not apply in the root zones of trees, ornamental or vegetable or other desirable plants except listed grasses.
Dithiopyr	St. Augustinegrass (see table 2), Bahigrass, Bermudagrass, Carpetgrass, Centipedegrass, Zoysiagrass	<u>Broadleaves:</u> Black medic, buttercup, Carolina geranium, carpetweed, chickweed, common purslane, henbit, knotweed, Lespedeza, spurges, oxalis <u>Grasses:</u> Bromegrass, large and smooth crabgrasses, crowfootgrass, goosegrass, kiluyugrass, ryegrass, sandbur, smutgrass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply to well established lawns with a developed root system. • Activated by rain or irrigation.

Table 1. (Continued) Active ingredients of selective herbicides for a variety of residential lawn grasses.

Active Ingredient/ Common Name	Use On	Control, Suppress or Kill	Additional Label Notes
Halosulfuron-methyl	St. Augustinegrass, Bahiagrass, Bermuda-grass, Centipedegrass, Kikuyugrass, Seashore paspalum, Zoysiagrass,	<u>Sedges:</u> Purple & yellow nutsedges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roadway, rights of way, fallow land, fence rows, fuel storage areas. May be tanked mixed with Glyphosate for application as directed in landscaped or fallowed areas.
Imazaquin	St. Augustinegrass (see table 2), Bermudagrass, Centipedegrass, Zoysiagrass	<p><u>Broadleaves:</u> Black medic, buttercup, Carolina geranium, common chickweed, cudweed, cutleaf evening primrose, dandelion, dollarweed, henbit, white clover</p> <p><u>Grasses:</u> Bahiagrass, crabgrass, field sandbur</p> <p><u>Sedges:</u> Annual & globe sedges, purple & yellow nutsedges, green Kyllinga</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not use on St. Augustinegrass for winter weed control. Do not mow before or after 48 hours after application. Apply over Indian Hawthorn, dwarf Yaupon holly ‘Schilling Dwarf,’ giant Liriope ‘Evergreen Giant,’ variegated Liriope ‘Silvery Sunproof,’ wax myrtle and others.
Metsulfuron-methyl	St. Augustinegrass (see table 2), Bermudagrass, Centipedegrass, Seashore paspalum, Zoysiagrass	<p><u>Broadleaves:</u> Aster, broadleaf plantain, Carolina geranium, chickory, clovers, common chickweed, common purslane, cudweed, dandelion, dollarweed (pennywort), Eclipta, FL betony, FL pusley, henbit, Lespedeza, pigweed, puncture vine, spurge, wild garlic, wild violet, yellow woodsorrel (oxalis)</p> <p><u>Grasses:</u> Pensacola Bahiagrass</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply when weeds are actively growing. May be applied to wet or dry lawn. Do not apply on or under the branch spread area of trees, shrubs, bedding plants, flowers or garden plants.
Penoxsulam	St. Augustinegrass (see table 2), Centipedegrass, Zoysiagrass	<p><u>Broadleaves:</u> Black medic, chickweed (common), clovers (hop, red & white), dandelion (common & false), dollarweed, FL betony, ground ivy, Lespedeza, plantains</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Best results when applied to small, actively growing weeds in spring or early fall. Apply in morning when dew is present.

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Table 1. (Continued) Active ingredients of selective herbicides for a variety of residential lawn grasses.

Active Ingredient/ Common Name	Use On	Control, Suppress or Kill	Additional Label Notes
Sulfentrazone	St. Augustinegrass (see table 2), Bahiagrass, Bermudagrass, Carpetgrass, Centipedegrass, Seashore pasaplum, Zoysiagrass	<p><u>Broadleaves:</u> Black medic, chickweed, curly dock, clover, FL beggarweed, FL pusley, henbit, Lespedeza, pigweeds, plantain, purslane (common), sparges, wild garlic, wild onion, wood sorrel</p> <p><u>Sedges:</u> Cylindric, globe, Surinam & Texas sedges, green & false green Kyllingas, purple & yellow nutsedges</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Used on well established turf grasses. • Uptake by both weed roots & shoots. • Effective against newly emerged & established sedges. • Complete kill should occur in 2-3 weeks.
Sulfentrazone + Metsulfuron-methyl	St. Augustine (see table 2), Bermudagrass & hybrids, Centipedegrass, Zoysiagrass	<p><u>Broadleaves:</u> Black medic, buttercups, Carolina geranium, carpetweed, common chickweed, clover, common lambsquarters, creeping beggarweed, cudweed, curly dock, Eclipta, evening primrose, golden rod, henbit, pigweeds, puncture weed</p> <p><u>Sedges:</u> Annual, cylindric & globe sedges, green & false Kyllingas, purple & yellow nutsedges</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turfs including residential, commercial and institutional lawns, athletic fields, golf courses (fairways & roughs).
Sulfentrazone + Quinclorac	Bermudagrass, Centipedegrass, Seashore paspalum, Zoysiagrass	<p><u>Broadleaves:</u> Carolina geranium, carpetgrass, chickweeds, clovers, crabgrass(large and smooth), Cudweed, dandelion, dock (curly), dollarweed, evening primrose, FL pusley, henbit, Lespedeza, oxalis, pigweeds (redroot & tumble), plantains, purslane (common), sparges</p> <p><u>Grasses:</u> Goosegrass, torpedograss</p> <p><u>Sedges:</u> Cylindric, globe, Surinam & Texas sedges, green and false green Kyllingas, purple & yellow nutsedges,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residential, commercial and institutional lawns, athletic fields, golf courses (fairway and roughs) • Apply to established sod • Do not apply to turfgrass under stress • Do not treat pastures, rangeland, or other areas grazed or harvested for livestock forage or hay
Sulfosulfuron	St. Augustinegrass (see table 2), Bahiagrass, Bermudagrass, Centipedegrass, Kikuyugrass, Seashore paspalum, Zoysiagrass	<p><u>Broadleaves:</u> Buttercup, dandelion, henbit, penny-cress, pennywort, shepherd's-purse.</p> <p><u>Grasses:</u> Crowfootgrass, Johnson grass</p> <p><u>Sedges:</u> Annual & globe sedges, false and false green Kyllingas, purple & yellow nutsedges</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Over the top Applications:</u> American arborvitae, bougainvillea, gardenia, jasmine (Asiatic, star), Juniper. (Chinese, creeping, shore), mondo grass, lirioppe, periwinkle, Rhododendron spp.

Table 1. (Continued) Active ingredients of selective herbicides for a variety of residential lawn grasses.

Active Ingredient/ Common Name	Use On	Control, Suppress or Kill	Additional Label Notes
Thiencarbazone + Iodosulfuron + Dicamba	St. Augustine (see table 2), Bermudagrass, Centipedegrass, Zoysiagrass	<p><u>Broadleaves:</u> Asiatic hawkbeard, black nightshade, broadleaf signalgrass, Carolina geranium, chamberbitter, common chickweed, common ragweed, corn speedwell, curly dock, dichondra, dog fennel, dollarweed, FL betony, FL pusley, henbit, horse purslane, lambsquarter, oxeye daisy, purple cudweed, purslane, wild clover, wild onion</p> <p><u>Grasses:</u> Carpetgrass, field sandbur, large crabgrass</p> <p><u>Sedges:</u> Green Kyllinga</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spot treatment with St. Augustinegrass at temperatures above 90°F may cause temporary growth regulation. • Make application to actively growing weeds. • Rainfall before spray has dried may necessitate retreatment.

Table 2. Active ingredients, brand names, and their recommended applications to St. Augustinegrass. Products are in the liquid form unless otherwise stated.

Active Ingredient Pre/Post Emergence	Brand Name	Use on St. Augustinegrass
2,4-D + Isoxaben + Mecoprop-p Dicamba <i>2,4-D, Post; Isoxaben, Pre; Mecoprop-p, Post; Dicamba, Post</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bayer Advanced Season Long Weed Control for Lawns 	Yes (except Floratam)
2,4-D + Mecoprop-p <i>(See first row for Pre and Post)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vigoro Weed & Feed for Bahia & Mixed Lawns (granules) 	No
2,4-D + Mecoprop-p + Dicamba <i>(See first row for Pre and Post)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bayer Advanced Southern Weed Killer for Lawns • Ortho Weed B Gon for use on many Northern & Southern Lawns • Ortho Weed B Gon for Southern Lawns • Ortho Weed B Gon for St. Augustinegrass including 'Floratam' • Scotts Turf Builder Plus 2 Weed control • Southern Ag. Lawn Weed Killer with Trimec • Spectracide Weed Stop for Lawns 	Yes (except Floratam) Yes (except Floratam) Yes (except Floratam) Yes (including Floratam) No Yes (except Floratam & improved varieties) Yes
2,4-D + Mecoprop-p + Dicamba + Dithiopyr <i>Dithiopyr, Pre (See first row for related Pre and Post)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spectracide Weeds Stops for Lawns plus Crabgrass Preventer (granules) 	Yes (except Floratam)
2,4-D + Mecoprop-p + Dichlorpop-p <i>Dichlorpop, Post (See first row for related Pre and Post)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scotts Liquid Turf Builder with 2 Weed Control 	No

Table 2. (continued) Active ingredients, brand names, and their recommended applications to St. Augustinegrass. Products are in the liquid form unless otherwise.

Active Ingredient <i>Pre/Post Emergence</i>	Brand Name	Use on St. Augustinegrass
Atrazine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hi-Yield Atrazine weed killer 	Yes
<i>Pre/Post</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Image for Established St. Augustine and Centipedegrass • Scotts Snap Pac Southern Weed & Feed (granules) • Southern Ag. Atrazine for St. Augustine Weed Killer • Spectracide Weed Stop for Lawn (granules) • Sunniland St. Augustine Weed & Feed (granules) • Vigoro Southern Weed & Feed (granules) 	Yes Yes (including Floratam) Yes Yes Yes Yes (including Floratam)
Bentazon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southern Ag. Basagran Sedge Control* 	Yes
<i>Post</i>		
Dithiopyr	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sta-Green Crab-Ex Pre & Early Post-emergent crabgrass control (granules) 	Yes
<i>Pre</i>		
Halosulfuron-methyl	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SedgeHammer* (granules) 	Yes
<i>Post</i>		
Imazaquin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Image Kills Nutsedge • Image Ready-to-Spray 	Yes Yes
<i>Pre/Post</i>		
Metsulfuron-methyl	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manor Turf Herbicide* (granules) • Mansion Turf Herbicide* (granules) • Scotts Spot Weed Control for Southern Lawns (granules) • Scotts Turf Builder Bonus S Florida Weed & Feed (granules) 	Yes Yes Yes (including Floratam) Yes (including Floratam)
<i>Post</i>		
Penoxsulam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lesco St. Augustinegrass Weed & Feed with Penoxsulam (granules) • Sta-Green Phosphorus-free Southern Weed & Feed for Centipede and St. Augustine 	Yes Yes
<i>Post</i>		
Sulfentrazone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dismiss Turf Herbicide* • Ortho Nutsedge Killer for Lawns 	Yes Yes
<i>Post</i>		

*Sold as a commercial product in specialty stores but also available to homeowners.

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Table 2. (continued) Active ingredients, brand names, and their recommended applications to St. Augustinegrass. Products are in the liquid form unless otherwise.

Active Ingredient Pre/Post Emergence	Brand Name	Use on St. Augustinegrass
Sulfentrazone + Metsulfuron-methyl	• Blindside Herbicide* (granules)	Yes
<i>Sulfentrazone, Post Metsulfuron-methyl, Post</i>		
Sulfentrazone + Quinclorac	• Solitare Herbicide* (granules)	No
<i>Sulfentrazone, Post Quinclorac, Post</i>		
Sulfosulfuron	• Certainty Turf Herbicides* (powder)	Yes
<i>Post</i>		
Thiencarbazon + Iodosulfuron + Dicamba	• Celsius WG Herbicide* (granules)	Yes
<i>Thiencarbazon, Post Iodosulfuron, Post Dicamba, Post</i>		

*Sold as a commercial product in specialty stores but also available to homeowners.

Things to Know:

- Atrazine is for cool season application.
- Imazaquin (Image) is for warm season application.
- Products containing 2,4-D and Dicamba are for broadleaf weed control.
- There is no selective herbicide that kills or controls weedy Bermudagrass growing in lawn grasses.
- There is no selective herbicide that kills or controls Torpedograss growing in St. Augustinegrass lawns.
- Applications for preemergence crabgrass control is generally done February 1 in South Florida, February 15 in Central Florida and March 1 in North Florida.
- Applications for preemergence winter weed control is generally done in late October to early November in South and Central Florida and early October for North Florida.

Florida Lawn Weeds



Crabgrass (Indian)
Digitaria longiflora



Dayflower (spreading)
Commelina diffusa



Dollarweed (Pennywort)
Hydrocotyle umbellata



Dichondra
Dichondra carolinensis



Fleabane (southern)
Erigeron quercifolius



Indigo (creeping)
Indigofera spicata



Kyllinga sedge (green)
Kyllinga brevifolia



Lespedeza
Lespedeza striata



Matchweed (Mat Lippia)
Phyla nodiflora



Nutsedge (purple)
Cyperus rotundus

Florida Lawn Weeds



Oxalis (Yellow Woodsorrel)
Oxalis corniculata



Purslane (common)
Portulaca oleracea



Pusley (largeflower)
Richardia grandiflora



Sandbur (southern)
Cenchrus echinatus



Sedge (globe)
Cyperus globulosus



Sida (southern)
Sida acuta



Spurge (Hyssop)
Chamaesyce hyssopifolia



Torpedograss
Panicum repens



Virginia Pepperweed
Lepidium virginicum



Wedelia
Wedelia trilobata

Lawn References

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- Trenholm, L. E. 2009. ENH-03. [Establishing Your Florida Lawn](#). UF/IFAS, Gainesville, Florida
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- Trenholm, L. E., J. L. Cisar and J. B. Unruh. 2014. ENH5. [St. Augustinegrass for Florida Lawns](#). UF/IFAS, Gainesville, Florida
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- Unruh, J. B., L. E. Trenholm and J. L. Cisar. 2013. ENH11. [Zoysiagrass for Florida Lawns](#). UF/IFAS, Gainesville, Florida

Palm References

- [Foxtail Palm](#)
- [Bismarck Palm](#)
- [Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center Palm Links](#)
- [Fusarium Decline of Queen Palms](#)
- [Lightning Strikes on Coconut and Royal Palms](#)
- [Nutrient Deficiencies and Fertilizer Applications](#)
- [Palm Fruit Loads](#)
- [Palm Problems \(power point\)](#)
- [Pruning a Cabbage Palm \(video\)](#)
- [Root Initials of Palms](#)

Other References

- [Florida Landscape Videos](#)
- [Lawn and Garden Home page \(Stephen Brown's page\)](#)
- [Native Plants Fact Sheets](#)
- [Native Plants Landscape Designs \(power point\)](#)
- [Seagrape \(*Coccoloba uvifera*\)](#)
- [Soil Characteristics of Lee County](#)

All pictures were taken by Stephen H. Brown.

This fact sheet was reviewed by Dr. Leon Ramon, UF, Weed Science; Ralph Mitchell, Charlotte County Extension; Peggy Cruz, Lee County Extension.

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