

# *Pre-Emergent weed control in lawns*

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Have you noticed all the green colored lawns starting to pop up in the McAlester area? These lawns are being sprayed with a pre-emergent herbicide for spring and summer weed control. Whether you hire a commercial pesticide company or do it yourself, here are some general tips for proper use of pre-emergent herbicides.

Pre-emergence herbicides are designed to control weeds as they germinate in the soil, before they emerge in the turf. Most pre-emergence herbicides give effective control of crabgrass, foxtails, annual bluegrass and chickweed - among

others. For a complete list of weeds and general information of weed control in the home lawn, pick-up OSU Extension Fact Sheet HLA-6421 Controlling Weeds in Home Lawns, available at your local OSU Extension Office.

General Tips for Pre-emergent Herbicide Use:

- Read Labels – Mix according to label and make sure the herbicide you select can be used on the grass variety in your lawn.
- Pre-emergence herbicides can be bought in liquid or granular form,



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choose the form that works best for your application method.

- Remove excessive thatch or leaves from the lawn, as these restrict the herbicide from penetrating the soil.
- Water in if less than 1/2 inch of rain is expected in 24 to 48 hours after use.
- Use a commercial dye-color marker to insure adequate coverage of herbicide.

Timing is critical as most pre-emergence herbicides will not control weeds that have germinated prior to application. Therefore, try to apply these herbicides several weeks before germination as most of these herbicides remain effective from 60 to 110 days after application.