Crabgrass

Department of Agriculture, Western Australia

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CRABGRASS

Crabgrass growing in lawns can be controlled by spraying with a solution containing D.S.M.A. (dosodium methyl arsenate). This herbicide only acts on plants present at the time of spraying and seedlings which appear later will not be affected by the treatment.

A suitable mixture is made by dissolving one ounce of 80 per cent. D.S.M.A. in one gallon of water, which is enough to treat 30 square yards. (This is equivalent to an application of 12 pounds of 80 per cent. D.S.M.A. per acre). The addition of a small quantity of wetting agent, such as a household detergent, helps the chemical stick to the leaf.

Young plants are more readily killed than those well established, so that control measures should be undertaken as soon as a general emergence has taken place.

The area treated should be inspected three weeks after the initial application and if the plants have not been killed, or have commenced to make new growth, a second treatment should be applied.

Because the chemical acts against the leaf of the plant it is not advisable to spray immediately after mowing. It is also best to water the lawn the day before the herbicide is applied, so that the treatment will have the maximum time possible to take effect before the next watering.

D.S.M.A. is available under various trade names from most firms which distribute agricultural chemicals.
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