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WEED CONTROL

CONTROL OF PERENNIAL GRASSES

Perennial grasses such as paspalum, kikuyu and couch can be controlled by spraying with a solution containing 2,2-DPA. This is a non-poisonous powder which is sold under a variety of trade names.

A suitable mixture is made by dissolving two ounces of 2,2-DPA in one gallon of water and this is sufficient to treat 30 square yards. The addition of a teaspoon of wetting agent, even a household detergent, helps the chemical stick to the leaf.

2,2-DPA is absorbed by the leaf and translocated into the root area. It is a slow acting herbicide and little effect is seen for a number of weeks.

Best results are obtained if the treatment is applied when the grass is young and making active growth.

Paspalum is more difficult to control than other perennial grasses and a second application should be made 7-10 days after the initial treatment. Final effects will not be seen for 6-8 weeks, and after this period any regrowth should be treated as it appears.

At this rate of application most garden plants would be damaged and care should be taken to prevent the spray drifting onto such areas.

Spray equipment used should be thoroughly washed with warm soapy water soon after use to prevent contamination.

2,2-DPA is available under various trade names from firms which handle agricultural chemicals.