



The Plant Professionals

## Grassburs in Your Turf

Grassburs or sandburs can be serious weed problems in lawns, particularly in sandy soil areas. Getting this weed pest under control can be a difficult matter. First of all, there is no “one shot” cure-all. This is not to say that nothing can be done. It means, however, that a systematic approach to the problem using both cultural and chemical methods is required. Specific actions must be taken at the proper time in order to achieve satisfactory control. Remember that grassburs are an annual grass plant. The burs produced are actually seed pods. Therefore, reducing the number of seeds will reduce next year’s potential crop. The following control program has been successful in controlling grassburs in South Texas.

<b>TIME PERIOD</b>	<b>ACTION REQUIRED</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
Fall (Sept- Nov)	Mow grassbur areas as frequently as possible to reduce seed bur production. Use a grass catcher to reduce the seed contact with the soil.	Don't use these clippings directly for mulch or compost.
Winter (Jan- early Feb)	Use a preemerge turf herbicide such as simazine, orazylin, benefin (Balan) Orazylin & benefin (XL Hericide) or DCPA, (Dacthal). A fertilizer combined with a pre-emergence herbicide at the rate recommended by the manufacturer used. We recommend <u>Amaze</u> .	Follow directions for use on container. Keep away from trees or other desired plant feeder root systems.
Early Summer (April-June)	Use a post-emergence herbicide on grassbur plants, that have escaped previous treatment, Before they produce a seed-head. Image (Ammonium salt of Imazaquin) can be used in the spring on Bermuda and St. Augustine. On Bermuda grass use MSMA (eg. Daconate). Herbicides containing glyphosate (Round-up, Kleenup, or Doomsday) may be used. Spot spray or wipe on application for individual grass bur plants only. (Glyphosate will damage all desirable turf grasses.)	Read the label completely before application. Follow all precautions. Not all post-emergence herbicides can be used on all types of turf grasses.

<b>TIME PERIOD</b>	<b>ACTION REQUIRED</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
Late Summer & Early Fall (July- August)	Repeat treatments with post emergence materials for plants missed earlier or remove, by hand, all remaining plants prior to producing seed-head.	Keep herbicide off of desired grass.

**Note:** Although the best time to begin a grassbur control program is now, one must understand that control procedures must be precisely timed to season. Begin by reducing the seed production source. Follow up with properly applied chemicals (application, timing, and rate). Remember the problem you are experiencing probably did not occur in a single year and it is unlikely that you will eliminate it in a single year. Proper lawn care, ie. mowing, fertilization and watering, is essential in order to maintain a weed free lawn.