Preventing Crabgrass in Lawns

Eric Baker
Estill County Extension Agent for Agriculture & Natural Resources

While the winter may have wreaked havoc on many desirable plants, it did little to affect crabgrass, the most common weed in Kentucky lawns.

"Crabgrass is an annual weed that out competes desirable grasses and then dies in the fall, leaving bare spots in yards for winter weeds to fill in," said Gregg Munshaw, Extension turf specialist in the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment. "The cycle keeps repeating itself until the turf stand gets poorer and poorer."

Munshaw said the best way to control summer annual grassy weeds, including crabgrass, is to apply a pre-emergent herbicide before the weed germinates. Make you plans now. "April 15 has traditionally is the latest date to apply pre-emergent herbicides in Central Kentucky," Munshaw said. "Western Kentucky's deadline is usually a few days earlier, and Eastern Kentucky's time frame usually ends a few days later."

Forsythia is a fairly reliable indicator of when crabgrass will germinate. Individuals should apply pre-emergent herbicides before the forsythia blooms begin to drop. "Forsythia buds usually mean you have 10 to 14 days to apply a pre-emergent herbicide," Munshaw said.

Individuals wanting to use herbicide should look for products containing the active ingredients dithiopyr, pendemethalin, prodiamine and bensulide. "Weed and feed" products and others containing nitrogen are not recommended for lawns with cool-season grasses, such as tall fescue and Kentucky bluegrass, during the spring or summer. "Nitrogen encourages the growth of perennial and annual warm-season weeds to further outcompete cool-season grasses, as they grow really well during the hottest part of the year," Munshaw said. "All fertilizer on cool-season lawns should be applied in the fall."

For more information contact the Estill County Cooperative Extension Service at 723-4557.

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The Garden Bug
Common Horsetail

Horsetail herb is often treated as a weed and destroyed. But it has been around since ancient times, and has been prepared as a juice, tea or tincture for many maladies such as ulcers, wounds, and kidney problems. It grows in wetlands in the temperate climate zones of the Northern Hemisphere, including Asia, North America, and Europe. Its ancestors grew as tall as trees in prehistoric times. *- Brenda Weaver*

Source: livelovefruit.com, bio-botanica.com

Birding BITS BY Cindy Brook

Gray Catbird

I love the migrating gray catbird that comes to my yard. He sits on my tray feeder and manages to stuff four peanuts into his mouth before flying off. Catbirds are great to have around. I often hear him mewing while sitting on the fence. Life is good.

E-mail: birdingbits@cfl.rr.com
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Wishing Well®

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: Y equals T

VOBEK YOK GQUBK GBWOY OSUK NDLYOKL CDZCKIDKAY UKLCBQAC, YOBC VBEE ZK YOK NBLCY SGQAW CKIDKEC.

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CryptoQuote

AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each week the code letters are different.

ADPHMCMV XCOSLZO OSLZVSO CE APGLH ALEO; OSLZVSO XCOSLZO ADPHMCMV CE WDHCALZE. — JLMQZJCZE

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Stickeler's Puzzle

STICKELERS [sic].
by Terry Stickels

A certain box of candy can be equally divided (without cutting pieces) between 3, 4 or 13 people.

What is the least number of pieces of candy the box could contain?

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Stickeler's Answer on Page 11

Americanisms

"To be the man, you've got to beat the man."
— Rick Flair

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Farming News
from Extension Agent Eric Baker

Monday, March 25th @ 12:00 Noon
Hiring a Dependable Contractor

Building, remodeling, or repairing a home can be one of the costliest undertakings a family experiences. When building or repairing your home, the general contractor you hire can be either the biggest help or the biggest source of problems you will encounter. Disreputable builders may try to take advantage of you, lining their pocket, while leaving your house in an unsatisfactory state. You can learn to protect your interests and avoid financial disaster by becoming an informed consumer.

On Monday, March 25, 2019, the Estill County Cooperative Extension Service will host Hiring a Dependable Contractor at 12:00 noon. All are welcome to attend.

Thursday, March 28th @ 6:00pm
Farm Laws and Liability Seminar

Attention farmers! Join us for a Farm Laws & Liability Seminar on Thursday, March 28th, 6:00 p.m. at the Estill County Extension office, 76 Golden Court, Irvine. Special guest speaker is Clint Quarles, staff attorney for the Kentucky Department of Agriculture.

If you own a farm, you should attend this meeting which will include boundary fence law information. A meal will be provided so please preregister by calling 723-4557, no later than March 25th.

Puzzle Answers
March 20, 2019

Puzzles4Kids
Answer

Riddle Answer:
They get hopping mad.

FEAR KNQT
answer

Letter Box
Solution

— FACE

Even Exchange
answers

1. Arbor, Armor
2. Middle, Muddle
3. Poise, Posse
4. Doris, Boris
5. Police, Policy
6. France, Fiance
7. Shove, Shave
8. Pickle, Fickle
9. Defend, Depend
10. Black, Blank

Weekly SUDOKU
Answer

King Crossword
Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

CryptoQuip answer
While the movie might have further subsequent versions, this will be the first among sequels.

CryptoQuote answer
Learning without thought is labor lost; thought without learning is perilous. — Confucius

Bible Trivia Answers
Now available by Wilson Casey! 2017 Bible Trivia box calendar loaded with daily teasers.

ANSWER: 1) New; 2) Fire; 3) Ali; 4) Dagon; 5) Moses; 6) Elisabeth

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Real Estate

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