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Control Summer Weeds Now

Yes, your mother was right an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Preventing weed problems is much better than trying to kill them later or pulling and stuffing them into a trash bag. It is like getting that proverbial cat back into the sack, not very easy. If you did not apply a pre-emergent herbicide last fall for those winter/spring weeds, you know exactly what I am speaking about. So to say "The cat is out of the sack" and everyone that rides by your lawn can see all those weeds. Everyone is calling me asking how they can control those obnoxious weeds. I sound like a broken record repeating that you would not have this mess if you would have put down a pre-emergent herbicide last October. You can kill them now by using a Trimec type herbicide. However, they have already gotten large, flowered and set seed for next year's crop of weeds.

This is what I call "That forsythia or yellow bell time of year." A very popular shrub, yellow bells are in full flower. This is an indicator that the soil temperature is getting high enough for summer weed seed to start germinating. A pre-emergent herbicide is one that prevents seed from germinating and starting to grow. Timing is very important when applying these products. Most are useless after weed seeds have germinated or started to grow. Therefore, you need to apply your pre-emergent herbicide for those summer weeds like crabgrass, lespedeza, spurge, and etc. now.

The type of herbicide you use should be determined by the type of grass, weeds, or landscape plants you have. You probably get tired of me saying this but always read and follow all label directions. You need to know what, how, and when to apply. Some products can only be applied to grass and some can be applied to both grass and shrub/flower beds. I know you would like for me to tell you exactly what to use but it is not that easy. However, some of the products available locally include atrazine, princep, XL, Team, Surflan, and Balan.

To learn more about decorating, gardening and country living watch both of our Emmy Award winning T.V. programs, Making-It-Grow (MIG) and Down Home with Tony and Amanda. MIG can be seen at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday nights on regular ETV. However, at present Down Home can only be seen on digital cable and some satellite systems on the SC Channel (channel 802 on Time Warner Cable). Also, you can view both programs on the web at www.mig.org.

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