

September Newsletter

CORN GLUTEN MEAL

Pre-emergence weed killers

All it takes is a little bit of rain, or some moisture, and bang, the weeds are here.

Until recently, most pre-emergence weed killers have been chemically produced, like Ronstar and others, but now we have a great organic alternative and that is Corn Gluten Meal.

Corn weed blocker is made from corn gluten. It is a 100% natural weed suppressor and slow release granular nitrogen fertilizer.

Corn gluten is a pre-emergence herbicide, so it works by inhibiting the development of small feeder roots. It does well against germinating seeds only, it won't affect established plants.

It can be applied in and around lawns, bedding plants, trees, shrubs, & vegetables.

Corn gluten, like any pre-emergence, works best when applied to bare ground before any weeds sprout. So before application, clear any and all weeds from the area, apply, and then water in.

Organic Pre-Emergent Herbicide:

Corn gluten meal is commonly used as an organic pre-emergent weed control; it works by creating a film on the soil surface, which discourages seedlings from sprouting. It can inhibit growth of plants smaller than 3 inches tall, but because it is organic, it is safe to use around vegetable starts and food crops over 3 inches tall. This is a medium-cost way of reducing weeds. As of 2010, applying corn gluten as directed costs about \$25 per year for 100 square feet. However, an added benefit of corn gluten is that it also contains nitrogen, an important fertilizer, so you may save money on fertilizer if applying corn gluten as a pre-emergent weed control.

CRABGRASS KILLER is effective on:

- Hairy Crabgrass
- Smooth Crabgrass
- Chickweed
- Basketgrass
- Clover
- Other similar weeds

Q. Is it safe?

A. Yes, Crabgrass Killer is safe around people, pets, and the environment.

Q. How do I use it?

A. It's very easy, just wet with water the area you want to treat and sprinkle the Crabgrass Killer over the area.

Q. How long does it take for the crab grass to die?

A. Noticeable results will be seen in 3-5 Days.

Q. How large an area will one bottle treat?

A. One 2lb. bottle will treat 100-200 sq. ft. depending on applicator.

Q. Will it kill the seeds?

A. No, it will only kill actively growing crab grass and weeds.

Q. Will it hurt my grass?

A. Crabgrass Killer will not harm St. Augustine's, Bermuda, Bahia or Centipede grasses. Other grasses are being tested throughout the country.

Q. What if it doesnt kill crabgrass?

A. It will work, just make sure the crabgrass or weed area is wet enough and evenly treated, it is very easy to use.

Q. What do you mean by wet enough and why does it turn yellow?

A. Crabgrass Killer turns YELLOW to let you the consumer know it has been fully activated. Water is the source of its activation so enough water is needed to activate the yellowing and begin the process of killing the crabgrass or weed.

Q. Why do I want it activated?

A. Within minutes of activation the product begins to work on killing your crabgrass. Water helps the product stick to the leaf tissue for absorption.

Q. How can I best activate the crabgrass control product?

A. Wet the area to be killed, dust with the crabgrass powder, wait a few minutes, if not activated then lightly mist over the product so as to completely activate. (DO NOT wash the product off of the leaves)

Q. How can I wet the crabgrass or weed area?

A. Spray bottle, Backpack sprayer, water hose or irrigation all work affectively.

Q. How long should the crabgrass or weed area be undisturbed after the product turns yellow?

A. 24 to 48 hours undisturbed

Q. What do you mean by undisturbed?

A. This product is taken in through the leaves and will "NOT" be taken up through the root system. Irrigation, mowing and rain can disturb the product enough to reduce the desired results and may need to be re-applied.

Q. What do you mean by evenly treated?

A. The average consumer thinks about most products "more is better", piling this product on weeds will only serve to cost you more money. A nice light to medium complete coating is adequate as long as activation was accomplish.

Q. Is it temperature sensitive?

A. NO, in all of our years of testing it was 100% affective in all temperatures common to North America. Killing crabgrass has never been easier.

Q. Can I use it year-round?

A. YES, but applying it to crabgrass or weeds that are already dead or completely dormant would be a waste of product.

Q. Does it kill Dallas Grass?

A. We have heard from customers and read on some turf forums that it is being used to kill Dallas Grass in St. Augustine grass. It is not labeled specifically for this use at this time, however the label does say "and other similar weeds".

Southern Living September 2008: Around Your Garden

Beautyberries

These graceful, deciduous shrubs will amaze you with their colorful, long-lasting fall berries. 'Early Amethyst' purple beautyberry (*Callicarpa dichotoma* 'Early Amethyst') is one of the finest selections, with lilac-colored berries. A white-berried form of purple beautyberry (*C. d. albifructus*) is also available. American beautyberry (*C. americana*) has fruit and foliage that are a bit bolder with bright purple berries and coarser leaves. 'Lactea' American beautyberry has white berries. These are all medium- to large-size shrubs and work well when planted en masse. They fit nicely along woodland edges. In the Upper South, plants may freeze to the ground but will come back from the roots and bloom and fruit the following year. Tip: Add a few stems to your fall arrangements for a "wow" display.

Fall for Gold

Mexican Mint Marigold

This herb is covered with masses of tiny yellow flowers late into the fall. It prefers full sun and works well in a perennial border or herb garden. Use it as a substitute for French tarragon, which does not like hot, humid Southern summers. Enjoy its licorice scent in the garden and in your kitchen creations. Use it as a perennial in the Middle, Lower, and Coastal South; treat it as an annual in the Upper South.

Best Carefree Blooms

Confederate Rose

You can't get more Southern than Confederate rose (*Hibiscus mutabilis* 'Plena'), a shrub with late-summer and autumn flowers that change from white to pink to deep rose as they age. You often get all three colors at once. Cuttings root easily in water, but if you don't have a shrub nearby to cut on, order from

'Ragin' Cajun'

Ruellia's vivid red flowers are also beacons for butterflies and bees. This plant may look wispy, but don't be deceived—it's tough. Maximize impact by planting en masse or grouping in containers.