

WINTER PREPARATION TIPS

STANDING SENTINEL TO PROTECT PLANT HEALTH



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**Defendor® specialty
herbicide***



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CHEMICAL CONTROL

Now is the time to prep turfgrass for the dormant season, especially in the North, where soil temperatures have begun to drop.

- ▶ Fall fertilizer applications provide longer-lasting benefits to a lawn than those done at other times of the year. For best results, make one application in early fall and another six to eight weeks later. There are fertilizers designed for specific seasons, so make sure to use a fall fertilizer that encourages root growth.
- ▶ For troublesome winter annuals and perennials, such as dandelion (pictured, above), chickweed and

clover, use a postemergent herbicide containing florasulam.

- ▶ Preemergent herbicide applications are also effective in the fall, so winter annuals and perennials have less of a chance to develop or multiply in spring. Control henbit (pictured, right), speedwell and lawn burweed with a preemergent herbicide containing isoxaben.
- ▶ Application timings vary by geography. In the North, fall/winter herbicide applications can be done as early as Labor Day. In warmer climates, they can be applied as late as October.

CULTURAL CONTROL

Fall is a great time to aerate, reseed and dethatch before the dormant season. Dense, lush turf is the best way to reduce the spread and encroachment of winter annuals.

- ▶ Aerate turf to help minimize thatch, relieve soil compaction, improve drainage and encourage strong turfgrass roots. Proper aeration helps the root systems become better established for the coming winter.
- ▶ Fall is the best time to establish cool-season grass because the soil temperature is cool and there is less weed competition. First,

rake the area to help break up the soil. Then mix topsoil and seed in a bucket, spread the mixture over the bare spots, and push it into the ground.

- ▶ Lower the mower's cutting height in the fall, when the grass begins to store food reserves. The lower height helps strengthen the plants' roots and crowns with nutrients that would have been used by longer grass blades.
- ▶ Fall also is a good time to dethatch the lawn, removing the layer of dead vegetation that prevents moisture and nutrients from reaching the roots.

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For more information regarding these and other turf weeds — and related control technologies and tips — please visit www.DowProvesIt.com or call 800/255-3726.

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