-- Lawn Weed Tips --

Postemergence Herbicides
Most warm season grasses like Bermuda will go dormant soon after it cools off. During these times postemergence herbicides can very effectively eradicate noxious weeds. Many products such as glyphosate and 2-4-D work well if properly sprayed. Weed control is much more effective when weeds are young and tender so make preparations now for winter lawn care. Timing for such products in our area begin in as early as December but should end before April without any injury to desired grass.

Preemergence Herbicides
Many unwanted grasses such as Crabgrass are warm season as well but a preemergence herbicide can help with control the following year. Products such as simazine (Princep) and Prodiamine (Barricade) control a wide variety of weeds in the home lawn setting.

Special Note about Dallisgrass
Bermuda grass usually goes dormant just before Dallisgrass meaning there is a small time frame Glyphosate can be used without injury to Bermuda grass.
Garden Tips

Dry weather may be causing a problems in yards and cattle forages but can be an advantage for gardeners. It certainly has made for a longer growing season and reduced plant diseases in fall gardens. The lack of moisture on plants restrict fungal propagation as well as extend the residual effects of fungicides. Of course it all depends on proper irrigation.

- Soaker hose or Drip lines provide a good option that is affordable and efficient.
- Furrows require more planning and more labor to install but have some advantage in cost savings.
- Use sprinkler irrigation in early morning hours.

Many folks may still have produce coming off due to the weather but it is time to start thinking about soil samples.

- Follow soil sample recommendations and apply Lime accordingly.
- Now is the time to avoid Blossom End Rot.
- Hydrated limes do have a faster availability but still need to be applied at the same recommended rate.
- Litter fertilizing is a great option. Bring a sample by the extension office to be tested and know how much to use.

Many folks ask about how to get rid of Pocket Gophers and the best answer is to start trapping. Not everyone has a dog or cat that will keep them out or would let them roam freely in their garden so start trapping them now to avoid overwhelming spring populations. Expect more activity after it rains. This will provide an excellent time to test for mound activity to know where traps should be set. During very cold winter days activity will decrease which will make trapping more difficult.

Its time to plant cover crops

- They provide erosion control
- Some can be eaten such as turnips, kale, rape or mustard.
- They can add organic matter to the soil
- Some mustards have been known to suppress nematodes
Tomato Varieties
Here are some varieties UAEX has done some recent research with fall production.
From left to right: Sun Gold, Plum Regal, Arkansas Traveler, Bush Early Girl, Valley Girl, Prudent Purple.

Sun Gold: a cherry type variety is more prolific with a sweet flavor.

Plum Regal: was late the last to ripen

Bush Early Girl and Valley Girl: Produced similar results and were smaller than expected during the regular season.

Arkansas Traveler: was less firm than Bush early Girl or valley girl.

Prudent Purple: made good sized fruit but had issues with cracking

Ants and Spider Invasion
Pest proofing your home is the BEST way to prevent unwanted invaders at this time or any other time of year. Your goal is to prevent pest entry and eliminate conditions that are conducive to pest infestation.

A. Ensure that screens on doors and windows are properly installed and maintained.
B. Doors should seal properly.
C. Cracks in the foundation, exterior walls, and fascia boards should be repaired.
D. Gaps around utility lines entering the home and gaps around appliance vents should be eliminated.
E. Varmint-proof wire or metal mesh should be installed on attic vents and crawl space vents.
F. Moisture sources should be eliminated by fixing any leaks.
G. Sanitation is extremely important so keep the kitchen clean.
H. Sealable containers should be used for food storage.
I. Eliminate clutter.
J. Clean up after your pets.
K. Frequent removal of household garbage is a necessity.
L. Clean trash bins as needed. Do not allow trees and shrubs to contact the house.