



Johnson's Garden Talk

Lawn and garden information for the friends and customers of Johnson's Garden Centers

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June 2001



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Keeping Bermuda at Bay

Sallie Strole, *Johnson's East Store*

Bermudagrass makes a thick, drought-tolerant lawn, but it also spreads where you don't want it. If bermuda is creeping into your landscape beds, Hi-Yield KILLZALL (or Roundup) is the traditional bermuda control. It kills anything green, but won't harm plants it doesn't touch. It doesn't travel through the soil. Many homeowners keep their beds "edged" with KILLZALL to stop bermuda.

Another option is Over-The-Top by ferti•lome. Over-The-Top selectively kills grassy weeds in and among ornamental plants without harming the desirable vegetation. There are varying degrees of tolerance to this product, so be sure and read the label for your specific plant.

If bermuda is invading your fescue, Turflon Ester can help. When applied once a month, Turflon suppresses bermuda and keeps it from spreading. This is especially useful in situations where bermuda is coming in from another yard.

However, if you plan to kill bermudagrass and replace it with fescue in the fall, do not use Turflon Ester this summer. Bermuda should be as healthy as possible so it will be able to absorb the KILLZALL better and therefore die out more completely. Since Turflon Ester makes bermuda sickly, avoid using it if you're planning a fall lawn renovation.