

Creeping Charlie and it's Control



Creeping Charlie, alias Ground ivy, is a broadleaf lawn weed that very often becomes invasive on home lawns. This lawn pest plant was introduced as a ground cover and has escaped that intended use. It is a vigorous, low growing perennial weed that has round opposite leaves with scalloped edges. The small blue flowers appear in early to mid May. This member of the mint family prefers shady and persistently moist environments.

Creeping Charlie is hard to control. It cannot be pulled out without leaving parts of it behind that will regenerate. It is also resistant to the common lawn herbicide 2-4-D. The standard weed and feed fertilizer products (containing 2-4-D) will not kill Creeping Charlie. Most liquid formulations of broadleaf herbicides suited for lawns contain three herbicides, ie. 2-4-D, MCPP, and Dicamba. Dicamba will kill creeping Charlie and other hard to kill lawn weeds but only if used at the correct time and frequency.

First make certain that the herbicide product contains Dicamba. Ortho, Bayer and Gordon's are among those brands that do contain Dicamba. Broadleaf weeds, like Creeping Charlie are easiest to control when actively growing. This is when they are able to quickly absorb the herbicide. With Creeping Charlie, timing is most important. The best times to treat this plant with herbicides is when the weed is in full flower (early May) and in fall after the first frost. Several herbicides treatments will be necessary. Space these treatments about 10 days apart.

Follow weed killer labels directions carefully. Mixing herbicides at a higher concentration than directed is unlawful and may do damage to your lawn grasses.

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