

WEEKLY NEWS COLUMN

April 13, 2021

Kelsey Nordyke, Ag and Natural Resources Agent
K-State Research and Extension, Cowley County
P.O. Box 538, 311 East 9th
Winfield, KS 67156

NOW IS NOT THE TIME

Purple flowers...beautiful in the garden, not so beautiful in your lawn. If you've been outside at all this spring, you've noticed the purple flowers making their appearances in lawns and fields. Henbit is an unwelcome addition to the home lawnscape. It is most noticeable in the early spring, causing homeowners to take notice and make the decision to take action to rid the lawn of these pests.

Henbit is a winter annual broadleaf weed that germinates in and is actively growing in the fall. By the time, it's noticeable in the lawn with its little purple flowers, it's too late to do anything about it. Treating these weeds this time of year may burn them back a little, but they'll rarely be killed. Because they are winter annuals, your best bet for this season is to wait until the weather gets hot and they'll be killed. Until then, keep the lawn mowed and let nature take its course.

Mark your calendar for September and October. In September, pre-emergent herbicide can be applied to the lawn as long as new grass seed hasn't been laid down. Products such as 2,4D, Wee-B-Gon, Weed Free Zone, Weed Out or Trimec can be sprayed in October when plants are actively growing. Choose a day that is 50 degrees or higher. The better the weed is growing, the more weed killer will be moved from the leaves to the roots. Colder temperatures slow the process.

For more information about home lawns, gardens and weed control, contact the K-State Research and Extension Office 221-5450, 441-4565.

####

For more information contact: Kelsey Nordyke
620-221-5450
klndyke@ksu.edu