



## Crabgrass Fact Sheet

Crabgrass is an annual grassy weed that invades lawns and gardens that are thin, weak and undernourished. It germinates when the soil temperatures reach about 59 degrees Fahrenheit and air temperatures stay above 64 degrees Fahrenheit for at least five consecutive days. The establishment of crabgrass usually happens in mid to late spring. It is yellow-green in color and has wide leaf blades that taper to a point at the end. These plants produce purple seed heads when mature. The seeds are produced over winter in the soil and germinate the following spring. The seeds can lie dormant in the soil for up to fifteen years before they germinate!

Because the crabgrass seeds can lie dormant for so long, it is best to apply a pre-emergent control to the lawn each year. The pre-emergent application is best implemented in the spring prior to germination. The pre-emergent prevents germination and because it is a grass, it can not be controlled when it appears as the product required would also damage the lawn.

It is also very important that the desirable grasses be properly fertilized to maintain a thick and healthy lawn. This will help to prevent additional crabgrass seeds from germinating during the season as the pre-emergent barrier weakens.

Remember to keep your lawn healthy by fertilizing throughout the growing season, mow at proper height and practice good watering habits.

**Give us a call at 1-800-LAWNCARE if you have any questions**