

## **Problem:** Grassy Sandbur



**Description:** Grassy sandbur is an annual grassy weed that is often found in lawns or other turf areas. It produces a spiny bur and is the “sticker” plant whose bur is often caught in clothing or in pet fur. It will often invade thin lawns, especially in dry years and prefers but is not limited to sandy sites.

## **Recommendations:**

The best control for grassy sandbur is a good, thick lawn. Preemergence herbicides can be used on lawns that are not thick enough to prevent an infestation. The products that can help minimize grassy sandbur are oryzalin and pendimethalin.

Oryzalin is sold under the trade names of Surflan and Weed Impede. It can be used on all warm-season grasses as well as tall fescue. It should not be used on cool-season grasses other than tall fescue such as Kentucky bluegrass. Apply oryzalin about April 15 when redbud trees approach full bloom.

Oryzalin is also sold as a combination product with benefin as Green Light Amaze. As with oryzalin alone, it can be used on all warm-season grasses (Bermudagrass, buffalograss, zoysiagrass) as well as tall fescue. It should not be used on cool-season grasses other than tall fescue such as Kentucky bluegrass. Apply Amaze about April 15 when redbud trees approach full bloom.

Pendimethalin is sold commercially as Pendulum as well as several other names. On the homeowner side, it is sold as Scotts Halts. Pendimethalin is best applied as a split application with the first half applied about April 15 and the second about June 1. Alternatively, make the first application when redbud trees approach full bloom and the second six weeks later. Pendimethalin can be used on all of our commonly used turfgrasses.

None of the “weed preventers” will give complete control but each should help. Quinclorac (Drive) can provide some postemergence control especially if the sandbur is in the seedling stage. Quinclorac is also found in a number of combination products that control both broadleaf weeds and crabgrass such as one of the following.

- Ortho Weed-B-Gon Plus Crabgrass Control
- Bayer All-in-One Lawn Weed and Crabgrass Killer.
- Monterey Crab-E-Rad Plus
- Fertilome Weed Out with Crabgrass Killer
- Trimec Crabgrass Plus Lawn Weed Killer

Bonide Weed Beater Plus Crabgrass & Broadleaf Weed Killer  
Spectracide Weed Stop for Lawns Plus Crabgrass Killer

Again, the best control for grassy sandbur is a healthy, thick lawn.

**References:**

1. [Field Sandbur Control for Lawns](#), University of Missouri Extension
2. [Weed Control in Home Lawns](#), MF 2385, K-State Research & Extension

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