

Problem: Wild Violet (*Viola pratincola* Greene)



Description: Wild violet is a perennial forb with heart-shaped leaves that bears solitary flowers on peduncles from the leaf axils. Flower color varies from blue, violet, dark violet and rarely white with flowering normally occurring from March to June but may persist longer in some years. Hybridization with other violets is common making and exact identification nearly impossible.

Recommendations: Wild violets are very difficult to control. Though products with 2,4-D, MCPP and Dicamba (Trimec, Weed-B-Gon, Weed Out, etc.) will provide limited control, products with triclopyr (Turflon Ester, Confront, Cool Power, Horsepower, Weed-B-Gon Weed-B-Gon Chickweed, Clover & Oxalis) are much more effective but must be used at the highest recommended rate. Note there are several formulations of Weed-B-Gon but only Weed-B-Gon Chickweed, Clover & Oxalis contains triclopyr). The best time to apply herbicides is in the fall (late October – early November) when the temperature is 50 degrees or higher. Wild violets can be treated either spring or fall but are more easily controlled in the fall because they are actively moving materials from the top portion of the plant to the roots. Herbicides will translocate to the roots as well and will kill the plant from the roots up.

Do not use products containing triclopyr on bermudagrass as severe injury will occur. Therefore, products with 2,4-D, MCPP and Dicamba (Trimec, Weed-B-Gon, Weed Out, etc.) must be used though they are less effective. Check the label before using the product on zoysiagrass or buffalograss as labels differ.

References:

1. [Wild Violet Control](#), K-State Turfgrass Blog, August 29, 2019
2. Weeds of the Great Plains, pg 554, Stubbendieck, Coffin and Landholt, Nebraska Dept. of Agriculture

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