UF IFAS UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

Eleusine indica (L.) Gaertn.

Goosegrass

Preemergence Control Guide for Florida Turfgrasses

Professional-Grade Herbicides

Table 1. Professional-grade preemergence herbicide options for the selective control or suppression of goosegrass (*Eleusine indica*) in most prevalent Florida turfgrasses.

HRAC WSSA Group[a]	Active ingredient(s) (simplified)	Turfgrass Species								Commercial Product Example(s)
		BER[b]	STA	BAHI	CARP	CENT	PASP	ZOYS	RYE	
PREEMERGENCE										
Standalones										
8	Bensulide	T[c]	T	T	NI	T	NI	T	T	Bensumec 4LF
3	Dithiopyr	R	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	Dimension 2EW, Dimension EC, Dimension Ultra 40WP
14	Flumioxazin	R	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	D	SureGuard SC, Flumishield SC
		T	NI	NI	NI	D	NI	NI	NI	StayGuard on fert.
		R	R	NI	NI	R	R	R	D	Flumioxazin 51% WDG
29	Indaziflam	R	R	T	NI	R	T	T	D	Specticle FLO, Specticle G
14	Oxadiazon	R	R	NI	D	D	NI	T	T	Oxadiazon 2G
		R	R	NI	D	D	R	T	T	Oxa-Pro G
		R	R	NI	D	NI	NI	R	NI	Ronstar FLO
3	Pendimethalin	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	1.71% Pendimethalin DG Pro
		T	T	T	NI	T	NI	T	NI	Corral 2.68G
		T	T	T	NI	T	T	T	T	Pendulum 2G, Pendulum 3.3 EC, Pendulum AquaCap, PRE-M 3.3 EC
3	Prodiamine	T	T	T	NI	T	T	T	T	Barricade 4FL, Barricade 65WG, ProClipse 65 WDG, Prodiamine 4L, Prodiamine 65 WDG, RegalKade 50
15	S-metolachlor	T	T	T	NI	T	NI	T	NI	Pennant Magnum
Two-way Premixes										
8 + 14	Bensulide + oxadiazon	T	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	T	T	Goosegrass/Crabgrass Control
3 + 21	Dithiopyr + isoxaben	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	Crew
		NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	Fortress
14 + 3	Oxadiazon + prodiamine	T	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	T	Regalstar II
		T	T	NI	NI	NI	T	T	T	Regalstar G
3 + 15	Pendimethalin + dimethenamid	T	T	T	NI	T	T	T	D	FreeHand 1.75G
3 + 21	Prodiamine + isoxaben	T	R	T	NI	T	T	T	T	Gemini
		NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	Gemini Granular
		R	R	T	NI	T	T	T	T	Prodoxaben 3.7 SC
		T	T	T	NI	T	T	T	T	Prodoxaben G
3 + 4	Prodiamine + quinclorac	T	D	D	D	D	T	T	R	Cavalcade PQ, LESCO Stonewall PQ
3 + 14	Prodiamine + sulfentrazone	T	R	T	T	T	T	R	T	Echelon 4SC, Echelon on fert.
Three-way Premixes										
3 + 2 + 5	Prodiamine + imazaquin + simazine	T	T	D	NI	T	NI	T	D	Coastal

[a] HRAC=Herbicide Resistance Action Committee; WSSA=Weed Science Society of America; Group=herbicide mode of action (MOA) group as classified by HRAC and WSSA (for more information about MOAs consult Turfgrass Herbicides: Mode of Action and Resistance Management (https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AG398).

[b] BER=Bermudagrass; STA=St. Augustinegrass; BAHI=Bahiagrass; CARP=Carpetgrass; CENT=Centipedegrass; PASP=Seashore paspalum; ZOYS=Zosiagrass; RYE=Perennial ryegrass.

[c] T=tolerant at labeled rates on well-established (mature, dense turf having a well-anchored root system and healthy, vigorous top growth), healthy turf when applied in optimal conditions; R=some injury may occur, and/or may cause some minor damage to mature, healthy turf, and/or specific restrictions may apply, and/or crop safety may differ between certain products; D=potentially damaging – do not use; NI=no information provided on the label or not registered for use on this species – use not recommended.

Mention of a commercial or herbicide brand name or chemical does not constitute a recommendation or warranty of the product by the authors or UF/IFAS, nor does it imply approval of the product to the exclusion of other products that may also be suitable.

Professional-grade herbicides should be handled by trained and licensed/certified personnel and applied using calibrated equipment. Always refer to the label for specific uses, application rates, turfgrass tolerance, and handler and environment safety. Always check for specific precautions and restrictions.

Homeowner-Grade Herbicides

Table 2. Homeowner-grade preemergence herbicide options for the selective control or suppression of goosegrass (*Eleusine indica*) in most prevalent Florida turfgrasses.

HRAC WSSA Group[a]	Active ingredient(s) (simplified)	Turfgrass Species								Commercial Product Example(s)
		BER[b]	STA	BAHI	CARP	CENT	PASP	ZOYS	RYE	
PREEMERGENCE ONLY										
Standalones										
3	Pendimethalin	T[c]	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	Scotts WeedEx Prevent with Halts
3	Dithiopyr	R	T	T	T	T	NI	T	T	Preen Lawn Crabgrass Control
PREEMERGENCE + POSTEMERGENCE										
Three-way Premixes										
14 + 3	Sulfentrazone + prodiamine	T	R	T	T	T	T	R	T	Bonide ProZone Weed Beater Complete, Bonide Sedge Ender
Four-way Premixes										
4 + 4 + 4 +3	2,4-D + MCPP + dicamba + dithiopyr	T	R	T	D	T	NI	T	T	Spectracide Weed Stop For Lawns Plus Crabgrass Preventer Granules

[a] HRAC=Herbicide Resistance Action Committee; WSSA=Weed Science Society of America; Group=Herbicide mode of action (MOA) group as classified by HRAC and WSSA [for more information about MOAs, consult Ask IFAS publication SS-AGR-394, "Turfgrass Herbicides: Mode of Action and Resistance Management" (https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AG398)].

[b] BER=Bermudagrass; STA=St. Augustinegrass; BAHI=Bahiagrass; CARP=Carpetgrass; CENT=Centipedegrass; PASP=Seashore paspalum; ZOYS=Zosiagrass; RYE=Perennial ryegrass.

[c] Tolerant at labeled rates on well-established (mature, dense turf having a well-anchored root system and healthy, vigorous top growth), healthy turf when applied in optimal conditions; R=Some injury may occur, and/or may cause some minor damage to mature, healthy turf, and/or specific restrictions may apply, and/or crop safety may differ between certain products; D=Potentially damaging — do not use; NI=No information provided on the label or not registered for use on this species — use not recommended.

Mention of a commercial or herbicide brand name or chemical does not constitute a recommendation or warranty of the product by the authors or UF/IFAS, nor does it imply approval of the product to the exclusion of other products that may also be suitable.

Always refer to the label for specific uses, application rates, turfgrass tolerance and handlers' and environment safety. Always check for specific precautions and restrictions.

Summary

Herbicide selection:

- **Professional-grade options** are presented in **Table 1**
  - Most effective: indaziflam, oxadiazon (may cause turf injury, new additional restrictions on oxadiazon use)
  - Putting greens: only bensulide or bensulide + oxadiazon (bermudagrass only)
- **Homeowner-grade options** are presented in **Table 2**
  - Weed-and-feed products: not recommended

Application scheduling:

- **Calendar-based method**
  - Typical "no later than" dates based on historical data:
    - South Florida → March 1
    - Central Florida → March 15
    - North Florida → April 1
  - *Limitation: less accurate due to annual weather variability resulting in weed escapes, apply earlier if needed*
- **Phenological indicators-based method**
  - Use blooming of azaleas and dogwoods as reference point
  - Apply 3–4 weeks after flowering (since goosegrass germinates later)
  - *Limitations: only applicable in northern FL; some azalea varieties flower year-round → unreliable*
- **Soil temperature-based method** (most accurate indicator of germination)
  - Apply when soil temps reach 60°F for 24 consecutive hours
- **Growing degree days (GDD)**
  - Most precise model in northern U.S. (base 10°C)
  - No reliable Florida-specific model available
  - *Challenges: subtropical/tropical climates inflate GDD; possible requirement for fluctuating temps; regional variability between goosegrass ecotypes; does not account for light, photoperiod, dormancy, osmotic potential, etc.*

Reapplication requirements:

- Sequential reapplications almost always needed
- Label intervals: 5–12 weeks (product-dependent)
- Florida sub-tropical conditions: up to 5 applications/year in golf or athletic fields
- Must stop 2–4 months before turf establishment, sod, or overseeding to avoid root injury or poor germination

Document developed by P. Petelewicz, UF/IFAS Agronomy. Document version: Dec. 23, 2025.
Tables and photos: P. Petelewicz, UF/IFAS Agronomy.

For more information consult our EDIS publications:

- "Identification, Biology, and Management of Goosegrass [*Eleusine indica* (L.) Gaertn.] in Florida Turfgrasses" **#SS-AGR-488** (https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/AG483)
- "Weed Management Guide for Florida Lawns" **#ENH884** (https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/EP141)
- "Weed Management in Pastures and Rangeland—2024" **#SS-AGR-08** (https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/WG006)
- "Turfgrass Herbicides: Mode of Action and Resistance Management" **#SS-AGR-394** (https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/AG398)

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