

Surprise your mother, wife or grandmother by sending one of her recipes to be included in a special tribute to mothers in the May 9th issue of *Lancaster Farming*.

Include a few sentences about her and a picture if you have one. Make sure that you include your name. Your address must also be included if you want the picture returned.

Submissions must be received in our office by May 4 to be included. Send the information to Lancaster Farming's Mother's Day Tribute. Attention Lou Ann Good, P.O. Box 609, Ephrata, PA 17522.

Recipe Topics

If you have recipes for the topics listed below, please share them with us. We welcome your recipes, but ask that you include accurate measurements, a complete list of ingredients and clear instructions with each recipe you submit. Send your recipes to Lou Ann Good, Lancaster Farming, P.O. Box 609, Ephrata, PA 17522. Recipes should reach our office one week before publishing date.

April	18 - Egg Salad Week
	25 - Using Olives
May	2 - Fish, Seafood
	9 - Favorite Recipe Made By Your Mother

Treat Crabgrass Now

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) - In mid- to late summer, some homeowners may see crabgrass taking over their lawn and head to the garden center. Unfortunately, according to a turfgrass specialist in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences, there is little that can be done about crabgrass in summer. The time to kill crabgrass is now - in early spring.

"Crabgrass is a summer annual grass weed," explains Peter Landschoot, associate professor of turfgrass science. "That means the plant starts growing in the spring or early summer and is killed by the first frost in fall. During its life cycle a crabgrass plant can produce thousands of seeds, which will infest your lawn and germinate

the following year."

Landschoot says that your first line of defense against crabgrass is to use good cultural practices - such as proper fertilization, mowing and irrigation - to thicken the lawn and "crowd out" the weeds. "This should help to cut down the amount of crabgrass in the lawn, but good cultural practices may not eliminate the problem," he says. "Where crabgrass is a stubborn problem, homeowners can apply a 'pre-emergence' herbicide designed to kill the plant before it starts to grow."

Most pre-emergence herbicides are marketed as weed-and-feed products; that is, herbicide and fertilizer rolled into one. The herbicide and fertilizer are granulated, allowing homeowners

to use spreaders to apply herbicide while fertilizing at the same time.

Landschoot warns homeowners not to grab the first weed-and-feed product they find at the garden center. "There are two types of weed-and-feed products: one for crabgrass and another for broadleaf weeds, such as dandelions," he says. "In addition, crabgrass control must be used in early spring, while broadleaf weed controls are most effective in late spring."

If homeowners cannot distinguish between the two weed-and-feed products, Landschoot strongly suggests asking a garden center employee or the manager for help.

"A common backyard rule of thumb is to apply crabgrass herbicide when forsythia blooms begin to drop off the plant," Landschoot says. "But that doesn't always work, so it's better to go by date."

Landschoot recommends the following periods for successful crabgrass herbicide applications in Pennsylvania:

Southeastern Pennsylvania: March 15 to April 15.

Northern tier and high-altitude counties: April 20 to May 20.

Other Pennsylvania areas: April 1 to May 1.

"Spring seems to be coming early this year, so homeowners probably should apply earlier in those time frames," Landschoot explains.

Landschoot also says that most herbicide applications will not provide 100 percent control, but they will eliminate most of the crabgrass plaguing a lawn for the remainder of the growing season.

Landschoot warns against applying a pre-emergence crabgrass herbicide in the summer or fall. The herbicide is not effective once the crabgrass is visible in the lawn. If you miss your spring treatment, let the frost kill the plants in fall, then consider making an application next year.

"Most pre-emergence herbicide also will kill lawn grass seedlings, so don't overseed your lawn for three to four months after using a pre-emergence product."

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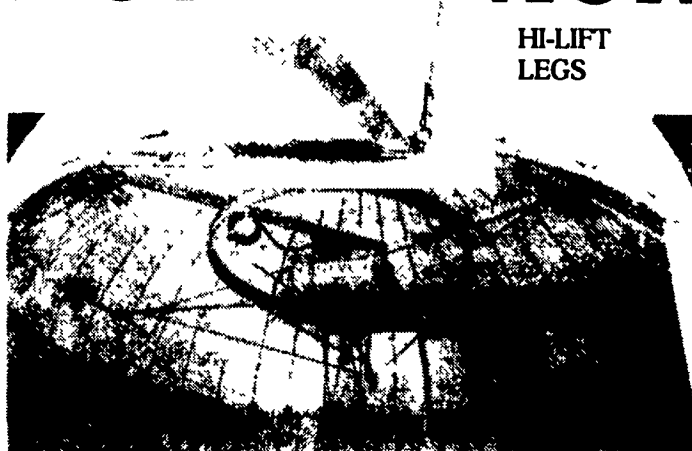


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