



Pre-emergence chemical herbicides are sold under names such as **Dacthal, Surflan, Weed Stopper, Treflan, Pendulum**. These products are safe if used according to label instructions and at the proper time of the year. Since pre-emergence chemicals will not affect weeds already established, they are normally applied soon after the lawn has been killed and before the rainy season in summer and winter. They won't harm most of your landscape plants.

However, if you plan to plant seeds of African Daisy or California Poppy in your former lawn area, don't use a pre-emergent.

When all else fails . . .

**READ THE INSTRUCTIONS
on your herbicide container!**



You are now ready to plant a lovely, low-water-using, low-maintenance garden where your old lawn once was. And, you can start planning your trip to Bermuda!



**WATER CONSERVATION ALLIANCE
OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA**



printing courtesy of the US Bureau of Reclamation 2005

Want to Get Rid of Your Bermuda Grass Lawn?



And, Eventually Save Enough Time and Money to Actually Go to Bermuda?

If you resent the high water bills you pay to keep your thirsty lawn going, and you are tired of having to mow it, dethatch it, rake it, and fertilize it, you are probably considering getting rid of all or most of your Bermuda grass lawn. Good for you!

Eliminating your lawn and replacing it with a low upkeep and low-water-using desert landscape can save you between 50% and 75% on water usage, and also free you from the boring chores that come with the maintenance of a lawn.

Bear in mind that getting rid of Bermuda isn't easy. It is one of those yard tasks that requires the use of chemicals. Although most of us are reluctant to use chemicals, they can be safely used with respect and care.

Don't bother trying to use plastic or felt paper to get rid of your lawn. They decompose rather quickly, and interfere with

water moving through the soil. And, Bermuda will grow right through these barriers anyway!

What Do I Do First?

Irrigate your lawn well during the week before you plan to apply the herbicide. Your grass needs to be actively growing when treated.

Forget the idea that if a little chemical is good, then a lot more will be a lot better. It isn't necessary or even useful for the grass to be saturated with the herbicide chemical. Use the product as intended in the instructions that come with it.

Did you know it is against the law to apply herbicide other than the way the label tells you to? Yep, it sure is.

What Should I Use?

Montsanto calls its product **Roundup**, General Control has **Doomsday**, and Ortho markets **Kleenup**. Whatever the brand name, the chemical is glyphosate, a foliar herbicide that will kill or damage most plants it contacts.

Don't attempt to use other products such as soil sterilants. They are simply too dangerous.

How Do Herbicides Work?

Glyphosate enters the plant through the leaves or green bark and moves through the plant and into the roots. This kills, not just the plant above ground, but the entire plant, roots and all.

You must be careful not to get any spray on plants close to your grass. They can easily be damaged or killed along with your Bermuda grass. However, glyphosate is not active or long-lived in the soil, so you can safely plant a tree or shrub in an area where this herbicide was recently used without injury to new plants.

Be sure the temperature is at least 80 degrees when you apply the herbicide. If rain is expected within a few hours of spraying, wait for a dry period as rain greatly reduces the effectiveness of the herbicide. Two days after you apply the herbicide, continue irrigation so the plants will continue to be active. The kill rate will be best this way.

The best time to undertake this effort is late summer when leaves are sending nutrients to the roots, or in the spring before it gets too hot.

When all else fails . . .

READ THE INSTRUCTIONS
on your herbicide container!



How Long Will It Take to Work?

Start early. It will take about ten days for the sprayed grass to die. If the grass isn't completely dead at the end of two weeks, irrigate and apply a second treatment of your herbicide.

Then What Do I Do?

Once your treated lawn is brown and dead, either scalp the lawn area using a mower set as low as possible, or rent a power rake (verticutter) and remove as much of the grass as possible.

You will want your final grade about two inches lower than any surrounding hardscape areas such as your patio or walkway.

And Finally,

Depending on what you will be doing with your former grass area, you will probably want to apply a pre-emergence herbicide to prevent weed seeds from germinating and becoming a nuisance.