Control of Wire Grass in Lawns

The only true control method for bermudagrass/wiregrass is to spray a non-selective herbicide such as glyphosate (round-up), and then re-seed the area sprayed.

Bermudagrass is very difficult to control and sometimes 2-3 applications of glyphosate are needed to produce acceptable results.

Fenoxaprop-p-ethyl does not effectively control bermudagrass, it only knocks it back for a short time and then it is back to business.  ‘Acclaim’ herbicide (for which fenoxaprop-p-ethyl is the active ingredient) is very expensive and does not make sense for homeowner situations.  In order to severely injure bermudagrass, they would have to spray it every 2-3 weeks during the growing season for several seasons in order to provide acceptable results and then it is still not even guaranteed to control it 100%.

The recommended protocol for controlling bermudagrass with glyphosate is 2-3 applications on 7–10-day intervals.  The rate should be at the highest labeled rate.  5 days after the last application of glyphosate one would ideally rake out all of the dead bermudagrass material.  After dead material is raked out, disturb the soil with a rake, hoe, tiller, or any other method to increase seed-to-soil contact.  Apply seed, then water.

Unfortunately, there aren't any other good options other than glyphosate and re-seed.

***Update 7-27-2022:* John Emerson Nutrient Management Agent BERMUDAGRASS CONTRO**L.

If bermudagrass has encroached or overtaken a cool season stand of turf, now is the time to prepare for non-selective herbicide applications and reestablishment of turf. The hardy rhizomatous root system of bermudagrass require 2 to 3 and sometimes 4 applications of a non-selective herbicide for adequate control. Before attempting re-establishment, sift through the canopy of dead foliage to look for any green or living plant material. If green tissue is noticed, consider another non-selective herbicide application. The following are a few different spray protocols that will control bermudagrass. Option 1 is the only protocol that does not require a wait interval prior to seeding. For options 2 and 3, wait 14 days after last treatment for new seeding. In all cases start the spray program in late July to early August for a September establishment period. Apply 2-3 treatment 10-14 days apart. \*\*\*1% solution = 1 gram of ammonium sulfate per 100mL

* Option 1. Glyphosate (41% a.i.) 4% solution + 1-2% solution of ammonium sulfate
* Option 2. Glyphosate (41% a.i.) 4% solution + sethoxydim (13% a.i.) 0.8 oz/M + 1-2% solution of ammonium sulfate
* Option 3. Glyphosate (41% a.i.) 4% solution + clethodim (12.6% a.i.) 0.8 oz/M+ 1-2% solution of ammonium sulfate