

Dollarweed

Dollarweed (*Hydrocotyle* spp.), also known as pennywort, is a warm-season perennial weed. It gets the common name, dollarweed, from its silver-dollar-shaped leaves. The leaves of dollarweed are round, bright green, fleshy and look like miniature lily pads measuring 1-2" in diameter with a scalloped edge. It has a low-growing habit that spreads by seeds, rhizomes and tubers.

Dollarweed is often confused with dichondra. One way to distinguish the two is by looking at the placement of the leaf stem. Dollarweed has a stem located in the center of the leaf while dichondra's stem is located at the edge (see image below).



Dollarweed leaf on left and dichondra leaf on right.
Bert McCarty, Clemson University

Before starting a weed control program homeowners should realize that complete eradication of dollarweed (or any weed) from the landscape is not practical. A more practical approach is to control (not eradicate) the weed by limiting the infestation to a tolerable level.

Cultural Control

Dollarweed is a water-loving plant that can float. The presence of dollarweed indicates that there is excessive moisture in the area. Research at the

University of Florida demonstrated a reduction in dollarweed just by reducing irrigation frequency (<http://grove.ufl.edu/~turf/weeds/dollarweed.html>). Monitoring moisture levels and evaluating irrigation frequency are the first steps to controlling dollarweed. Landscape plants and lawns require one-inch of water a week for optimum growth.

A properly maintained landscape that is not stressed by insects, diseases, drought or nutrient imbalance is the best defense against weeds. Proper mowing height of lawns and a 3-inch thick mulch layer around trees and shrubs will prevent the invasion of weeds. For more information on proper landscape maintenance techniques, see the following fact sheets: [HGIC 1056, *Watering Trees & Shrubs*](#); [HGIC 1604, *Mulch*](#); [HGIC 1201, *Fertilizing Lawns*](#); [HGIC 1205, *Mowing Lawns*](#) and [HGIC 1207, *Watering Lawns*](#).

Chemical Control

Lawns: Dollarweed thrives in weak, thin turf with excessive moisture. The first defense against dollarweed is to reduce moisture levels and modify cultural methods (i.e., proper mowing height and irrigation). After taking steps to modify the lawn care techniques, a chemical control may still be necessary to further reduce the dollarweed population. Herbicides should be chosen according to turf species and applied in late spring (after full spring green-up of the lawn) when weeds are small. Herbicide effectiveness is reduced as weeds mature.

Atrazine can be applied to St. Augustinegrass and centipedegrass up to two times a year. For maximum effect atrazine should be applied once in the fall and again in late spring (after spring green-up). Atrazine has a pre- and post-emergent effect on weeds, which means it helps to control both

emerged weeds and weed seed. It should NOT be applied to newly seeded lawns due to the detrimental effect it has on seed germination. Delay atrazine applications to newly sodded and sprigged lawns until it is well-established and actively growing. Examples of products containing atrazine in homeowner sizes are:

- Hi-Yield Atrazine Weed Killer
- Southern Ag Atrazine St Augustine Weed Killer
- Image for St. Augustinegrass & Centipedegrass with Atrazine
- Spectracide Weed Stop for Lawns Concentrate for St. Augustine & Centipede Lawns



Dollarweed in a lawn.
Bert McCarty, Clemson University

A three-way herbicide may be used safely on bermudagrass, zoysiagrass, centipedegrass, St. Augustinegrass and tall fescue. The active ingredients of a three-way herbicide include the following broadleaf weed killers: 2,4- D, dicamba, and mecoprop (MCP). Examples of three-way herbicides in homeowner sizes are:

- Ferti-lome Weed-Out Lawn Weed Killer - Contains Trimec®
- Southern Ag Lawn Weed Killer with Trimec®
- Lilly Miller Lawn Weed Killer Concentrate
- Bayer Advanced Southern Weed Killer for Lawns
- Spectracide Weed Stop Weed Killer for Lawns
- Bonide Weed Killer – lawn Weed Killer Concentrate
- Ortho Weed B Gon Weed Killer for Lawns

CAUTION: Herbicides containing 2,4-D should be applied at a reduced rate on St. Augustinegrass and centipedegrass to prevent damage to these lawns. The product label will give the rate to use for each type of turfgrass. If a second application is needed, apply the herbicide in spot treatments. Repeated applications of a three-way herbicide should be spaced according to label directions. Three-way herbicides should not be applied during spring transition (green-up of lawn) or when air temperatures exceed 90 °F. A newly seeded lawn should be mowed a minimum of three times before applying an herbicide.

Imazaquin (such as in Image Herbicide Consumer Concentrate –Kills Nutsedge) can be applied safely to bermudagrass, St. Augustinegrass, centipedegrass and zoysiagrass, but do not apply to tall fescue. Apply imazaquin in the spring (after spring green-up) when weeds are small. A second application can be made in six weeks after the initial application. Do not apply to newly planted, plugged or sodded turfgrass.

Once dollarweed has been eliminated in areas of the turf, bare spots will be left behind. To prevent the invasion of new weeds in these bare spots fill them with plugs or sprigs of the desired turfgrass.

Turf Tolerance to Herbicides for Dollarweed Control

Herbicide	Bermudagrass	Centipedegrass	St. Augustinegrass	Tall Fescue	Zoysiagrass
atrazine	D	S	S	NR	NR
(3- way) 2,4-D + MCP + dicamba	S	I	I	S	S
imazaquin	S-I	S	S	NR	S
S=Safe at labeled rates I= Intermediate safety, use at reduced rates NR= Not registered for use on and/or damages this turfgrass D = Fully dormant turf only.					

Landscape Beds: In landscape beds dollarweed can be hand dug or controlled with an herbicide. Dollarweed is a perennial weed that can emerge

from seeds, tubers and rhizomes. Once dollarweed has made its way into the landscape bed, an herbicide may be necessary if hand pulling is not practical.

Glyphosate can be used for spot treatments around ornamental plants. Glyphosate is a non-selective herbicide that should be used with caution. Do not allow glyphosate spray mist to contact ornamental foliage or stems as severe injury will occur. A cardboard shield may be used to prevent glyphosate spray from drifting to nearby ornamentals. Examples of products containing glyphosate in homeowner sizes are:

- Roundup Original
- Martin's Eraser Systemic Weed & Grass Killer
- Tiger Brand Quick Kill Grass & Weed Killer
- Ultra Kill Weed & Grass Killer Concentrate
- Ace Concentrate Weed & Grass Killer
- Bonide Kleen-up Grass & Weed Killer
- Bonide Green Thumb 41% Super Concentrate Weed & Grass Killer
- Gordon's Groundwork Concentrate 50% Super Weed & Grass Killer
- Monterey Remuda Full Strength 41% Glyphosate
- Hi-Yield Super Concentrate Killzall Weed & Grass Killer
- Southern States Grass & Weed Killer Concentrate
- Zep Enforcer Weed Defeat III
- Eliminator Weed & Grass Killer Super Concentrate

Imazaquin (Image Herbicide Consumer Concentrate –Kills Nutsedge) is a selective herbicide that can be applied safely around certain landscape plants; see product label for a listing of the plant materials. Imazaquin should not be applied around the root zones of plants not on the product label. It is best to apply imazaquin when weeds are small (early spring). A second application can be applied six weeks later if necessary.

Glyphosate and imazaquin are both more effective when weeds are actively growing and should not be applied under drought conditions. As with all pesticides, read and follow all label instructions and precautions.

CAUTION: Atrazine and imazaquin can travel through soil and enter ground water, please read the label for all environmental precautions. Users are advised not to apply atrazine or imazaquin to sand or loamy sand soils where the water table (groundwater) is close to the surface and where these soils are very permeable, i.e., well-drained.

Pesticides updated by Joey Williamson, HGIC Horticulture Extension Agent, Clemson University 05/15. Originally prepared by Millie Davenport, HGIC Extension Agent, Clemson University. New 11/08.

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