

# The Final Solution

## The elimination of Crab/Bermuda grass in your lawn

If you have been fighting crabgrass in your ficus lawn now there is a solution.

But first let's talk about what does not work.

Thirty years ago when we moved into our house the back lawn was crabgrass and weeds. The procedure at that time for starting a new lawn was to start by kill the crabgrass using a product called Vapam, a weed killer that is effective on both grasses and broad-leaved weeds. Once the old lawn was killed the new lawn can then be seeded. Unfortunately, within three months the crabgrass was back and within a year you could not tell that a new lawn had been planted.

The second attempt was with Vapam, but in addition, the lawn was covered with black plastic to enhance the effects of the weed killer. The results were the same.

By this time the environmentalists had taken over and Vapam was not available. The new product of choice was Roundup. To be effective the lawn was sprayed several times over several weeks. This time instead of seeding, sod was used. The idea was that the sod would block any weeds that still remained. Within a couple of months the crabgrass was back with the same results. One thought was to see if isolated spraying of the crabgrass, using Roundup, would work. Two liter plastic bottles were obtained and the bottoms cut off. The neck of the bottles were slipped over the crabgrass and sprayed through the cutoff bottom. Soon the lawn looked like we were growing plastic bottles with at least 100 bottles on the lawn.

The fourth lawn used Roundup and the top six inches of soil was removed to remove as many of the crabgrass stems (stolon's) that still might be alive. When the crabgrass started to appear a so called crabgrass killer was used on the lawn that seemed to kill the ficus grass and fertilize the crabgrass. Weekly weeding had no effect.

After spending thousands of dollars and hours weeding the lawn it was fast becoming evident that nothing could solve the problem and you must be resigned to having a crabgrass lawn.

### **The Final Solution;**

Did you ever notice that crabgrass will not grow in the shade? Also crabgrass grows low to the ground. The solution is so simple; **deny the crabgrass sunlight by growing the ficus grass tall (3 to 3-1/2 inches) and use a mulching mower to cut only the ficus grass covering up the crabgrass.**

For years we have been cutting the lawn to a height of 1-1/2 to 2 inches. This exposed the crabgrass to the sun. We also did not use a mulching mower thinking that the crabgrass cuttings would just start more of the crabgrass. What we were doing was encouraging the crabgrass to grow.

Of course you could do what a neighbor did and replace the lawn with artificial turf. No watering and mowing.

Now you know the final solution.