

## *Success Tip...*

### **Controlling Nimblewill (if that's possible!)**

Description: Nimblewill is a warm season perennial, which means it grows well in the heat of the season, and goes dormant during the cooler parts of the season. It tolerates both sunny and shady locations, loves moist areas, and is very distinguishable with its bluish green short leaves, spreading wiry flat growing habit, in low circular patches. Nimblewill turns a whitish tan right after the first good frost, and remains like that until it re-greens in late spring.

Nimblewill has very shallow roots, and spreads by both stems that root into the soil and by seed, which are produced anytime between August and October (the flowers are on long slender stalks). These seeds will remain dormant in the soil until the following late spring, when they will begin to sprout. This weed can be very invasive in both the lawn and the landscape, and tolerates a wide range of soil conditions including gravelly soils.

Prevention of nimblewill: This includes keeping the lawn as thick as possible (modify the growing conditions for the turf by improving soil drainage, reducing shade, increasing air movement, etc. to increase the turf's capability to compete), as well as hand pulling or eliminating it before it goes to seed in the late summer.

Control of nimblewill: Physical removal, making sure all roots and stems are removed from the soil will work. Again, do this before the plants begin to flower and set seed. You can also try using an herbicide labeled for nimblewill control, and spraying when the weed is young and tender (late spring to early summer). Spraying with a labeled selective herbicide can be very mixed in results, and will require several applications. The best means of control for young and tender or matured and established nimblewill is the use of a non-selective herbicide, such as Roundup, and killing the entire infested area, Nimblewill, turf, and all (and further out to be sure you kill it all). Then re-seed or re-sod that area. Roundup is only effective on actively growing nimblewill, and may require 2 applications. Make sure the weed is totally dead, and that all has been killed, before re-seeding or sodding the area. NOTE: If nimblewill seed is present in the soil, it can come back quicker from seed than the new lawn seed can become established. Sodding helps to keep the nimblewill seeds from germinating. It may be advisable to do this type of renovation in August for seeding or sodding in early September.

