

Turfgrass Science

Florida Betony Biology and Management in Turf¹

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Florida betony (*Stachys floridana*) is a perennial broadleaf. It is sometimes called rattlesnake weed because its underground stems produce fleshy, white, segmented tubers that resemble a rattlesnake's rattle. A branched, erect stem is produced from thin, white underground runners and the fleshy tubers. Leaves are opposite, simple, shovel shaped, toothed, and long

stalked. Pinkish-purple flowers produce fruit composed of four nutlets. Reproduction occurs primarily through the tubers. Florida betony is native to Florida and was confined to Florida until it escaped in the 1940s or 1950s in nursery stock and is now found from Texas to North Carolina.



Herbicide options for controlling Florida betony in Florida turfgrass

Due to its ability to reproduce through tubers, it is important to use herbicides that can move within the plant after absorption and reach those tubers to ensure effective control of Florida betony.

(Always refer to the label for specific uses, application rates, and turfgrass tolerance)

BER

Preemergence: None
Postemergence: 2,4-D, 2,4-D+dicamba, dicamba, foramsulfuron, metsulfuron, thiencazone+iodosulfuron+dicamba, triclopyr+clopyralid, trifloxysulfuron

STA

Preemergence: atrazine
Postemergence: atrazine, 2,4-D, dicamba, metsulfuron, thiencazone+iodosulfuron+dicamba

CENT

Preemergence: atrazine
Postemergence: atrazine, 2,4-D, dicamba, triclopyr+clopyralid, thiencazone+iodosulfuron+dicamba

BAHI

Preemergence: none
Postemergence: 2,4-D, 2,4-D+dicamba, dicamba, triclopyr+clopyralid

Preemergence: none
Postemergence: none

PASP

Preemergence: atrazine

ZOYS

Postemergence: atrazine, 2,4-D, 2,4-D+dicamba, dicamba, foramsulfuron, metsulfuron, thiencazone+iodosulfuron+dicamba, triclopyr+clopyralid, trifloxysulfuron

Preemergence: none

RYE

Postemergence: 2,4-D, 2,4-D+dicamba, dicamba, triclopyr+clopyralid

BER=Bermudagrass; STA=St. Augustinegrass; CENT=Centipedegrass; BAHI=Bahiagrass; PASP=Seashore paspalum; ZOYS=Zoysiagrass; RYE=Perennial rye winter overseed

Refer to the publication *Pest Control Guide for Turfgrass Managers* at http://turf.ufl.edu/pdf/2012_UF_Pest_Control_Guide.pdf for brand names associated with chemical names listed.

¹This document is ENH1127, one of a series of the Environmental Horticulture Department, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. Original publication date July 2009. Revised February 2013. Visit the EDIS website at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>.

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