

Turfgrass Science

Florida Betony Biology and Management in Turf

J. Bryan Unruh, Ramon G. Leon, and Darcy E. P. Telenko²

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) (See page 2)

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.

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

¹This document is ENH1127, one of a series of the Environmental Horticulture Department, UF/IFAS Extension. Original publication date July 2009. Revised February 2013 and April 2016. Visit the EDIS website at http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu.

²J. Bryan Unruh, professor, Environmental Horticulture Department; Ramon G. Leon, assistant professor, Agronomy Department; and Darcy E. P. Telenko, former postdoctoral research associate; UF/IFAS West Florida Research and Education Center, Jay, FL 32565.

The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) is an Equal Opportunity Institution authorized to provide research, educational information and other services only to individuals and institutions that function with non-discrimination with respect to race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations. For more information on obtaining other UF/IFAS Extension publications, contact your county's UF/IFAS Extension office.

Preemergence: prodiamine+isoxaben
Postemergence: 2,4-D,
2,4-D+dicamba, amicarbazone,
dicamba, foramsulfuron, metsulfuron,
penoxsulam+sulfentrazone+dicamba+2,4-D,
thiencarbazone+iodosulfuron+dicamba,
triclopyr+clopyralid, trifloxysulfuron

STA

Preemergence: atrazine, prodiamine+isoxaben Postemergence: amicarbazone, atrazine, 2,4-D, dicamba, metsulfuron, penoxsulam+sulfentrazone+dicamba+2,4-D, thienc arbazone+iodosulfuron+dicamba

Preemergence: amicarbazone, atrazine, prodiamine+isoxaben
Postemergence: atrazine, 2,4-D, dicamba, penoxsulam+sulfentrazone+dicamba+2,4-D, triclopyr+clopyralid, thiencarbazone+iodosulfuron+dicamba

Preemergence: prodiamine+isoxaben Postemergence: 2,4-D, 2,4-D+dicamba, dicamba, penoxsulam+sulfentrazone+dicamba+2,4-D, triclopyr+clopyralid

Preemergence: prodiamine+isoxaben Postemergence: amicarbazone, penoxsulam+sulfentrazone+dicamba+2,4-D

Preemergence: atrazine, prodiamine+isoxaben Postemergence: amicarbazone, atrazine, 2,4-D, 2,4-D+dicamba, dicamba, foramsulfuron, metsulfuron, penoxsulam+sulfentrazone+dicamba+2,4-D, thiencarbazone+iodosulfuron+dicamba, triclopyr+clopyralid, trifloxysulfuron

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

BAHI

PASP

ZOYS

RYE