

Using Tea Leaves in the Garden and How to Eliminate Bermuda Grass

Q: Dear Master Gardeners, I have Bermuda grass growing up into my ornamental monkey grass. What is the best way to eliminate the Bermuda grass without destroying the monkey grass? I would prefer to not use Roundup unless absolute necessary. Some of this problem is close to other plants, primarily roses.

A: Thank you for submitting this question! We enjoy learning about gardening issues!

Regarding Bermuda grass in your monkey grass, I've had that issue as well. I had to resort to using glyphosate (Roundup) to get rid of it. Before that, I dug up the monkey grass, tore out the Bermuda grass roots, and replanted the monkey grass. And the Bermuda came back! If there is a molecule of Bermuda grass root in the ground, it will grow. Here's how I finally got rid of the Bermuda grass: Roundup sells a gel form of its product. I applied it with a small (as in artist) paint brush to the Bermuda grass blades, being very careful not to get it on the monkey grass or anything else. That worked.

If you would like to try some other herbicides other than Roundup, UT Extension has a publication, "Common Herbicides for Ornamental Weed Control" that list several recommendations. A couple of these chemicals are Segment, Ornamec and Envoy Plus. They should be available at local farm and garden stores. Products like the Ornamec can be sprayed over the top of many ornamentals making the effort much easier and likely more successful. The possibility of accidental damage to non-target plants by glyphosate will also be avoided.

I hope this answers your question and write us back should you have any more.