Weeds are a fact of life. No turf or landscape will remain weed-free without man's intervention. Landscape exposed to heat, drought, poor soil, shade, and traffic will surrender to weeds. That's why there will always be work for the landscape manager.

His job is to shift the balance in favor of the desirable species and keep it that way. He does this by putting stress on weeds and reducing stress on desirable plants.

Stress may stem from poor soil; excessive shade, slope, moisture, and wind; improper plant selection; and maintenance practices such as mowing too low, using unnecessarily heavy machinery on turf areas, over-irrigating, over-fertilization and mis-timed aerification.

Correction of stress factors is an important component of a weed control program. If stress can't be corrected, stress-tolerant plants should be selected and planted.

In this guide, weed control is divided into four categories: turf (warm and cool season), ornamental, rights-of-way, and aquatic.

Each area may require a different approach, though many of the chemicals and weeds are the same. It's important that a landscape manager approach each in the proper way.

Editor's note: Throughout the sections of the Weed Control Guide, there are references to herbicides that the authors say have been shown to be effective in combating a certain weed problem. The herbicides labelled as effective are not endorsed by WEEDS TREES & TURF. They have been shown to be effective in research experiments.