



Ornamentals can increase the beauty of any landscape.

WEED CONTROL IN THE LANDSCAPE

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An increase in the use of trees, shrubs, ground cover, and herbaceous plants in commercial and residential landscapes has caused a corresponding increase in use of both pre-emergence and post-emergence herbicides in landscape maintenance.

The landscape manager has to control weeds around a variety of desirable plant material, including deciduous and evergreen shrubs, trees, groundcovers, annual and perennial flowers, bulbs, and ornamental grasses. These plants are located in a wide variety of locations, such as plant beds, containers, greenhouses, atria, and even in sand traps.

Attention to the label is especially important in ornamental weed control due to the varying sensitivity of plants to herbicides. Manufacturers attempt to provide products safe to the largest possible number of species.

Before planting

The most successful approach to a weed-free landscape is to control perennial grasses and broadleaf weeds prior to planting.

Spraying the weeds in the planting area with post-emergence systemic herbicides will kill the root system as well as the topgrowth.

Such herbicides include 2,4-D and related products for broadleaf weed control, dalapon for grass control, and amitrole for general weed control. These may have to be applied more than once for complete kill.

Each has a specific waiting period prior to planting. Highly-used glyphosate is very effective and has no soil residue.

Fumigation of plant beds is another alternative.

Vapam is one of the simplest fumigants to use. It is applied and watered into the soil. The water seals the

surface, but plastic can also be used to cover the bed after the fumigant is applied and watered in.

The fumigant will also kill insects and some fungi detrimental to plants. Planting can take place within days following treatment.

Fumigants and non-selective herbicides will kill desirable plant material contacted by them. Care must be taken to protect nearby trees and shrubs.

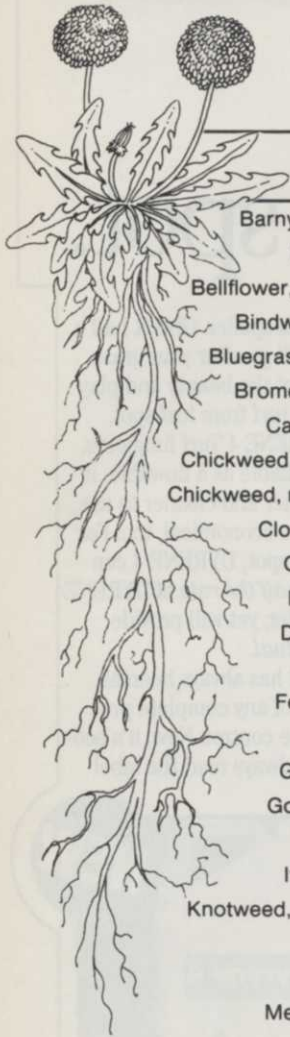
A number of pre-emergence herbicides are labelled for ornamentals and two are recommended for use prior to planting.

Eptam or Treflan can be incorporated into the soil, following tillage, to control annual and some perennial weeds for a period of four to six weeks.

Following incorporation to a depth specified on the label, ornamentals can be planted.

WEED CONTROL GUIDE

CHART 1
Growth and treatment periods



Weed	SPRING			SUMMER			FALL			WINTER		
	Early	Mid	Late	Early	Mid	Late	Early	Mid	Late	Early	Mid	Late
Barnyardgrass		•••••		—————								
Bedstraw	—————											
Bellflower, creeping		—————		—————			—————	—————				
Bindweed, field		—————	—————	—————			—————	—————				
Bluegrass, annual	•••••					•••••			—————			
Brome, smooth		—————	—————	—————			—————	—————				
Carpetweed		—————	—————	—————			—————	—————				
Chickweed, common	•••••	—————	—————	—————		•••••	•••••	•••••	—————	—————		
Chickweed, mouseear		—————	—————	—————		•••••	•••••	•••••	—————	—————		
Clover, white		•••••	•••••	—————			—————	—————				
Crabgrass			—————	—————	—————		—————	—————				
Dandelion	—————	—————	—————	—————			—————	—————	—————			
Deadnettle	—————	—————	—————	—————			—————	—————	—————			
Dock		—————	—————	—————			—————	—————	—————			
Fescue, tall	—————	—————	—————	—————			—————	—————	—————			
Foxtail			—————	—————	—————		—————	—————				
Garlic, wild		—————	—————	—————								
Goosegrass			—————	—————	—————		—————	—————				
Henbit	•••••	—————	—————	—————			—————	—————	—————			
Ivy ground	•••••	—————	—————	—————			—————	—————	—————			•••••
Knotweed, prostrate	—————	—————	—————	—————			—————	—————				
Kochia		—————	—————	—————	—————		—————	—————				
Mallow	—————	—————	—————	—————			—————	—————	—————			
Medic, black		—————	—————	—————			—————	—————	—————			
Moss	—————	—————	—————	—————			—————	—————	—————			
Nimblewill			—————	—————	—————		—————	—————	—————			
Nutsedge, yellow			—————	—————	—————		—————	—————	—————			
Pigweed, prostrate		—————	—————	—————	—————		—————	—————	—————			
Plantain		—————	—————	—————	—————		—————	—————	—————			
Puncturevine	•••••	•••••	•••••	—————	—————		—————	—————	—————			
Purslane, common			—————	—————	—————		—————	—————	—————			
Quackgrass	—————	—————	—————	—————	—————		—————	—————	—————			
Sanbur			—————	—————	—————		—————	—————	—————			
Shepherdspurse	—————	—————	—————	—————	—————		—————	—————	—————			
Sorrel, red		—————	—————	—————	—————		—————	—————	—————			
Speedwell	•••••	•••••	•••••	—————	—————	•••••	•••••	•••••	—————	—————		
Spurge, prostrate*		—————	—————	—————	—————		—————	—————	—————			
Thistle, Canada	—————	—————	—————	—————	—————		—————	—————	—————			
Thistle, musk	—————	—————	—————	—————	—————		—————	—————	—————			
Vervain, prostrate		—————	—————	—————	—————		—————	—————	—————			
Violets	—————	—————	—————	—————	—————		—————	—————	—————			
Waterleaf (nyctelea)	—————	—————	—————	—————	—————		—————	—————	—————			
Woodsorrel, yellow	—————	—————	—————	—————	—————		—————	—————	—————			
Yarrow		—————	—————	—————	—————		—————	—————	—————			

————— Active period of plant growth. Varies from year to year and from north to south.
••••• Apply preemergence chemicals.
————— Apply postemergence treatments. Approximate periods may vary two weeks from season to season.

*Preemergence herbicide applications should be made a second time in late June or early July.



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WEED CONTROL GUIDE



Weeping hemlock (left) and weeping crabapple adorn a patio area.

This method has been used extensively by commercial nurserymen and is now being used by landscape contractors to a large extent, especially where maintenance for a specified period of time is in a planting contract.

Tillage as a method of weed control prior to planting is a successful practice for the control of annual weeds but not perennial weeds. In some cases, tillage only cuts up the root systems of perennials into smaller pieces and distributes them.

After planting

In recent years, the landscape industry has made extensive use of mulches to prevent weeds in the landscape. Mulches should be applied two inches deep and renewed to that depth annually.

Mulch layers deeper than two inches accomplish little and actually harm shallow-rooted ornamentals which will root into the mulch instead of into the soil.

The most popular mulches are hardwood, pine, and cypress barks, as well as wood chips, peat moss, and various hulls. Materials which are not composted or inorganic can rob the soil below of important nitrogen.

An application of one pound of actual nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft. will offset the nitrogen draw from the soil or organic mulches.

Landscape fabrics are growing in use for low maintenance areas. The fabrics have been improved and are useful in mulched beds where plants are spaced out. They are impractical for groundcover areas and they do not control germination of weed seeds in the mulch above the fabric.

Pre-emergence herbicides can be used in combination with mulches to stop germination of weed seeds in the mulch or those deposited by birds and wind. They control annual weeds for a period of four to eight weeks. Reapplication is usually necessary for season-long control.

Determine the amount of pre-emergence herbicide to be applied by figuring the area of the plant bed, measuring the proper amount for that area, and distributing it evenly in the area.

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