

PROBLEMSOLVER

LANDSCAPE TROUBLESHOOTING TIPS » BY H. BRUCE HELLERICK



PROBLEM

This is one of my pet peeves in the landscape. An otherwise beautiful looking display is marred by small but highly visible problems. Something is amiss. Do you see the weed?



SOLUTION

The definition of a weed is a plant out of place. It's a detail issue.

Yes, the red tulip is beautiful, but it's a plant out of place and, therefore, a weed. The quickest solution is to pull out the flower and give it to the first person who walks by. It's fun to do, and you will get a huge smile from the recipient.

The problem with leaving the red flower is that everyone knows the red flower shouldn't be there. Leaving the red flower in the bed reduces your core image as a landscape management professional. It may sound like a silly statement, but think about it. Is your client now thinking, "They don't see the wrong colored flower in the bed, what else are they missing in my landscape?" It's all about details.

Every day you see horticultural problems. Sometimes the solution is obvious, but others are much more difficult to solve. Brickman Group Senior Horticulture Specialist H. Bruce Hellerick tackles these issues each month in Problem Solver. He can be reached at Hellerick@BrickmanGroup.com.

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