

DREAM GREENER PRESENTS



BROADLEAF LAWN WEEDS

HOW TO IDENTIFY AND CONTROL BROADLEAF
WEEDS IN YOUR PENNSYLVANIA LAWN

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WHAT ARE BROADLEAF WEEDS?

Broadleaf weeds are tough, aggressive plants that attack weak areas in your lawn. These weeds are eyesores because they're easily identified in lawns, since they don't resemble grass at all. The best way to fight them is to learn best practices for your grass to keep a healthy lawn. Then, if necessary apply the appropriate weed control and herbicides to keep them at bay.

BEST PRACTICES TO KEEP WEEDS AT BAY

THE NUMBER ONE WAY TO KEEP WEEDS OUT OF YOUR LAWN IS TO HAVE A THICK, LUSH, HEALTHY LAWN THAT NATURALLY BLOCKS OUT WEEDS.



LAWN MAINTENANCE BEST PRACTICES



REGULAR LAWN MOWING

During the growing season, your lawn should be mowed every 5-10 days at 2.5 - 3.5 inches for a Fescue lawn. This recommendation can vary depending on how much water your lawn is getting and the weather conditions. But regardless, sharp blades will keep the grass healthy and strong.

Many people wonder if grass clippings are beneficial or harmful for their turf. The clippings are composed of primarily water and they decompose more quickly than the rest of the grass plant. While they decompose on your lawn they provide nitrogen, potassium and phosphorus, acting as a valuable and natural fertilizer, and not contributing to thatch buildup.





PROPER WATERING

Water is one of the most crucial elements that will impact the success of your lawn. A healthy grass plant will have roots that penetrate about 6 inches deep into the soil. The deeper your roots go, the better equipped your plants will be to survive a drought and block out weeds or disease.

To do this you will need to water fewer times per week for a longer time frame. The water will push deep into the soil, and as the top portion of the soil profile dries out the roots will follow the water deeper. There is one caveat to this, putting down too much water in one hour can actually be wasteful because any water that is not being absorbed by the soil is running off.

While every lawn is different, you can remember these important tips:

- Allow your lawn to dry out during the day by watering in the morning
- Provide ample drainage for low areas that hold water
- If you're not able to water regularly, mow less frequently with a sharp blade

A winning watering strategy will be the most important thing you can do to help your lawn grow strong and fight weeds.



FALL AERATION AND OVERSEEDING

Pennsylvania soils are mostly composed of hard clay. Core aeration for your lawn gently removes plugs of soil, allowing the ground to breathe better and absorb the water and nutrients that we feed it. Aeration equipment removes 1.5 - 3 inch plugs of soil and leaves them on top of the lawn. This will fill in thin areas of your lawn and thicken existing turf providing the best defense against weeds!



BROADLEAF WEED IDENTIFICATION

THESE ARE THE MOST COMMON BROADLEAF WEEDS WE FIND IN PENNSYLVANIA LAWNS.



CHICKWEED

Stellaria media

Root Type: Fibrous and shallow
Flower Color: White



DANDELION

Taraxacum officinale

Root Type: Thick and long taproot, sometimes branched
Flower Color: Yellow



KNOTWEED

Polygonum aviculare

Root Type: Taproot
Flower Color: White to green with pinkish margins



BLACK MEDIC

Medicago lupulina

Root Type: Taproot with fibrous network
Flower Color: Yellow



BROADLEAF PLANTAIN

Plantago major

Root Type: Taproot with fibrous roots
Flower Color: Whitish



PURSLANE

Portulaca oleracea

Root Type: Taproot with secondary fibrous root system
Flower Color: Yellow



BULL THISTLE

Cirsium vulgare

Root Type: Taproot with secondary fibrous root system
Flower Color: Rose to reddish purple



CLOVER

Trifolium repens

Root Type: Fibrous with above-ground stolons with rooting at the nodes
Flower Color: White, sometimes pinkish



HENBIT

Lamium amplexicaule

Root Type: Fibrous root system
Flower Color: Purple to pink



MALLOW

Malva neglecta

Root Type: Taproot with coarsely branched secondary fibrous root system
Flower Color: White or light lavender



OXALIS

Oxalis spp.

Root Type: Rhizomes with secondary fibrous root system
Flower Color: Yellow



BUCKHORN PLANTAIN

Plantago lanceolata

Root Type: Fibrous roots from an underground stem
Flower Color: Inconspicuous



SPURGE

Euphorbia supina

Root Type: Taproot with secondary fibrous roots
Flower Color: Whitish



VIOLET

Viola papilionacea

Root Type: Branching rhizomes and coarse root system
Flower Color: Purple or blue

HOW DO YOU CONTROL BROADLEAF WEEDS?



SELECTIVE HERBICIDES

Selective herbicides, commonly known as weed killers, are products designed to be toxic to weeds and disrupt their life cycle stage while leaving the desired turf grass unharmed.



HERBICIDES CAN WORK BEFORE OR AFTER THE WEED HAS GERMINATED:



PRE-EMERGENT CONTROL

Pre-Emergent herbicides are applied before the weeds begin to germinate. The date when a pre-emergent weed killer should be applied is dependent upon when the germination takes place during the season.

Pre-emergents work when they are applied to soil to create a thin barrier blocking the seed from germination. Some factors such as rainfall or watering and wear and tear may break the barrier down faster than anticipated.



POST-EMERGENT CONTROL

When a weed has already germinated in your lawn, it needs to be treated with a post-emergent herbicide which is designed to be applied after the weed has become visible.

There are two types of control that post-emergent herbicides may contain so it is important to read the label and understand the weed you are working with.

1. **Contact Control:** Herbicides that work on contact will destroy the portions of the weed that they touch. Contact herbicides work exceptionally well for annual weeds.
2. **Systemic Control:** These herbicides will spread within the weed as it is absorbed, making this type of control very effective for perennial weeds.





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LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT • LAWN MAINTENANCE • SNOW SERVICES

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FERTILIZATION & WEED CONTROL PLAN

Dream Greener's fertilization and weed control will improve the health, color and density of your lawn. Our plan is tailored to our specific Philadelphia climate and geographic conditions.

We'll help you with regular tips and tricks to keep a weed-free landscape year-round!



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