



# ECO-FRIENDLY GUIDE TO WEEDS



Thistle weed

## description

A weed is a plant that is growing where it is not wanted; easily reproduces and spreads; competes with desirable plants for space, light and nutrition; detracts from the aesthetics of the landscape; can harbor pests and diseases

## germination

Weed seeds may lie dormant, germinating when soil is disturbed and seeds are exposed to light; seeds may be windblown, spread by birds or introduced with imported soil

## goal

Disrupt the weed's lifecycle without damaging the environment

## Least Toxic Solutions

### Prevent weeds

- \*Keep plants healthy to help them compete with weeds
- \*Do not let weeds flower or go to seed-it greatly increases their potential population
- \*Do not bring soil with weed seeds or roots on site
- \*Mow lawn weekly to prevent weeds from germinating
- \*Monitor and remove weeds regularly before they get established
- \*Prevent weeds from growing by blocking light and/or creating a physical barrier to growth

### Weed Barrier Options

- \*Cover plant beds with 4-6" of mulch
- \*Lay newspaper 4-6 sheets thick and cover with leaves to make a weed barrier in plant beds that lasts several months
- \*Weeds are indicator plants letting you know that soil is lacking nutrients, oxygen and is compacted. To reverse: aerate, and add 1/3" compost per 1000 sq.ft. This will add all needed nutrients and relieve compaction
- \*AVOID black plastic, it is non-biodegradable and reduces air exchange with roots

- \*Fill in pavement cracks with caulking compound formulated for asphalt or concrete

### Physically Remove

- \*Pull weeds regularly to keep populations from getting out of hand
- \*Weed by hand when practical, it's best to pull when plants and the soil is moist
- \*Use hoes designed to move horizontally below the soil surface to avoid bringing seeds to surface
- \*Hoe weeds when they are young for easier removal
- \*Be careful not to damage shallow rooted landscape plants
- \*Use RONS SPEEDY WEEDY according to directions

### Weed Disposal

- \*Dispose of weeds that have flowered or gone to seed in the trash
- \*Puy vegetative structures like rhizomes (underground stems) from Johnsongrass and "nutlets" from nutsedge in the trash - Do not put in compost pile

### Do Not Use

weed and feed products - the best time to treat weeds is not the best time to fertilize

For assistance identifying weeds and choosing least toxic options call

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