

Weed Control

There are a number of things that can be done to control weeds in your landscaping. Landscape weeding will become less of a chore if you follow the steps listed below. It takes time to rid a yard of weeds, but if you have patience the hard work will pay off and you will find your yard requires minimal effort once the maintenance weeding has been done.

Mulching

Apply a layer of mulch 1" to 3" thick to all landscaping beds. Mulch will help to keep weeds from growing by depriving them of the light they need to grow. Mulch will also help to keep your soil moist and your plants happier.

Landscape Fabric

Landscape fabric is often applied to landscaping beds in hopes of eradicating weeds. In theory it should work similar to mulch by keeping the sunlight out that weeds need to grow. However, landscape fabric used in mulched beds typically causes a number of problems. The mulch often blows off the fabric or erodes away. The mulch that stays will eventually break down into soil and accumulate on top of the fabric. This will eventually negate the preventative effects of the weed barrier. Landscape fabric does however work quite well as a weed barrier when used in gravel beds. It is effective in gravel beds because it keeps a barrier between the rock and the soil and the rock keeps the landscape fabric in place, which does not allow weeds to penetrate the fabric.

Pre-Emergent Herbicides

Pre-Emergent Herbicides will stop weed seeds (and all other seeds too) from sprouting in your beds. They come in a granular form and is sprinkled into your landscaping beds. Pre-Emergents also come in an organic form called corn gluten. To be most effective pre-emergent herbicides are best applied beginning in the early spring and applying at regular intervals through the late fall. It is important to note that pre-emergent herbicides will only stop weed seeds from sprouting, once the seed has sprouted a Post-Emergent Herbicide will have to be used to treat it.

Post-Emergent Herbicides

Round-up is the most commonly known brand of non selective post-emergent herbicides. Post emergent herbicides are sprayed on an existing weeds or unwanted plants to eradicate them. Post-emergent herbicides should be used with care and only applied on a calm day. Post-emergents will kill any plant the spray contacts, including your landscaping plants. There are selective post-emergent herbicides too. Selective herbicides have a targeted group of plants they affect. For example 2-4D products kill broadleaf weeds but do not affect grassy weeds.

Weeding

Pulling weeds has proved to be a chore that most of us do not enjoy. If you have let your weeds get out of control, pick one area at a time and focus on completing one small area each time. Weeding is also much easier after a rain when the soil is nice and moist. Use a fork to help pull up the roots of small weeds if necessary. If it is dry, hot, and sunny when you do your weeding, lop your weeds off with a hoe and let the roots shrivel up and die. If you can't pull your weeds or chop them down, at least cut off their heads. Cutting off the weed heads will prevent reseeding of the weeds and help to reduce the spread of the weeds.

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