

Hondalawnlovers

Weed control



WEED CONTROL

The best two ways to prevent weeds is to mow regularly, and choose a lawn like Buffalo or Zoysia that competes well with weeds.

Broad leaf weeds have broad generally flat leaves and can be sprayed out of your lawn with chemicals such as Bromoximal MCPA, often sold under the brand Bindii Killer. If you have Buffalo, make sure you use one compatible with Buffalo. Broad leaf weeds include Clover, Bindii, Thistle, Capeweed, Creeping Oxalis, Cat's Ear and more. You can use either the chemicals diluted into a spay pack or unit, which is generally the best way. Spray the lawn and the weeds will die and the lawn will be unharmed. Other options include using a clip on hose herbicide such as Yates Buffalo Pro Hose-on Weedkiller, which is easy to use, but on some harder to kill weeds like Clover are not as effective as the mixture you would make up in a spray unit, but for other weeds they work well. Weed and feed products sound good, but horticulturists do not recommend spraying a weed chemical and fertilising at the same time. It is best to keep these processes separate. Some Clover weeds can be particularly stubborn, and you may need to use a stronger chemical. Unfortunately these are not available to the public, so you may need to hire a specialist, or just kill the areas dead with Round Up, and replant, or try stronger frequent applications of the broad leaf chemical available to you.

Keep an eye out over winter for Bindii to develop, if they do, spray them. It may take a few applications to get them all, as they germinate at different times over winter.



Bindii Weed – Remember, stop weeds before they seed, and you will stop the next generation.

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GRASS WEEDS

If you have Couch or Zoysia, you can use a specialist to take many grass weeds out of your lawn with commercial chemicals.

You can also spot grass weeds out by yourself by using Round Up or other mechanical methods. This works for all lawn types, including Buffalo and Kikuyu, as well as Couch and Zoysia. The easiest way to remove them is to chip them before they seed. You can use a knife, a pick, or a specialised weeding fork, which definitely works the best. But if you have too many, another method is to use a wick wiper filled with Round Up. Simply wipe the herbicide on the weed and it will die. You may have to repeat this in a few weeks. Make sure you do not get any on your lawn.

Sometimes you get Kikuyu in your Buffalo lawn. To kill it, I get comfy, and paint the Round Up on, making sure you wear a rubber glove. Alternatively you can place a piece of cardboard under the Kikuyu and above the lawn, and paint the Round Up onto the Kikuyu. If you have a Couch or Zoysia lawn, specialists can take out Kikuyu with commercial chemicals which are not generally available for home sale, however DSMA or MCPA is now available in some home formulations such as Paspalum Killer, and maybe used to take out stubborn grass weeds such as Kikuyu and Paspalum in Zoysia and Couch. Make sure you read the label carefully if you decide to do it yourself, as the label may vary from product to product. Some claim these chemicals will take out nut grass as well, but generally Sempra would be a better choice.

If you have Nut grass, there are specialist nut grass killers, but they are usually so expensive for a small quantity it is better value to hire a specialist commercial weed killing service, although recently Sempra has appeared on some web sites for as low as \$69.95 for 25grms.

NON CHEMICAL WEED CONTROL METHODS

Mow regularly and well, and use Buffalo or Zoysia lawns. Apart from that you can chip or hand weed. Steam or hot water can also be used to kill weeds. The steam or hot water if used correctly will kill Broadleaf weeds without harming turf grass, but I suggest experimenting on small areas first to work out for yourself how best to do it. It can also be dangerous, so maybe Round Up could be safer. These days you can buy small portable steamers. Plug these into an extension cord, and steam the weed to death. For those who really hate chemicals, your steamer can clean the bathroom, then kill the weeds.