



## Recommended Treatments for Lawn Problems

Does your perfect lawn, all of the sudden, have dandelions? Or maybe the grass has a reddish brown color to it called rust? Or have those pesky grubs taken over your lawn altogether? Unfortunately, weeds, diseases, and pests can become a problem to anyone's perfectly looking lawn. This guide is an aid to help you identify them, as well as answer those questions on why they appear and how to get rid of them.

### WEEDS

Weeds are simply plants growing out of place. The **first step** is identifying the weed and trying to determine why it has become a problem in your lawn. Weeds have three categories; Sedges, Grasses, and Broadleaf. After you have properly identified the weed, the **second step** is reviewing how you take care of your lawn and make adjustments as needed. These practices include the proper sod selection for your lawn and its establishment period, fertilizer you use and how much, watering, mowing, etc. Then the **third and last step** is the removal of existing weeds. You can either use a non-chemical control, or a chemical control, or a combination of both to help you eliminate your weed problem.

Below we have listed the top 10 weeds that affect central Illinois (**step 1**), what may cause them to appear (**step 2**), and what course of action is needed to remove them (**step 3**).

### WEEDS

### OCCURRENCE

### SOLUTION

#### SEDGES

Yellow Nutsedge



Photo by: University of Illinois | Extension

- All soil types
- Moist or poorly drained soils with pH 5 to 7
- Warm to high temperatures
- Full sun and shade
- Low density, thin turf
- Late spring to mid summer

- Maintain dense turf
- Mow high and increase drainage in moist areas
- If hand pulling, it is imperative that the entire root system is removed.
- Get a herbicide for sedges (traditional herbicides for grasses and broadleaf will not work)
- Apply as soon as you see the plant and do not mow for at least 2 days prior or following application

#### GRASSES

Crabgrass



Photo by: University of Illinois | Extension

- Found in warm, moist, fertile lawns in sun
- Occur if mowing too short
- Occur if watering too much
- Occur if grass is thinning out
- Summer

- Maintain dense turf
- Avoid summer fertilization
- Hand pull
- Avoid mowing too short
- Do not over water
- Use Pre Emergent and Post Emergent when the plants are small\*

Foxtail



- Found in moist, fertile soil during mid to late growing season
- Can occur with new seedings
- Occur if watering too much
- Occur if grass is thinning out
- June to September

- Maintain dense turf
- Hand pull
- Avoid mowing too short
- Avoid summer fertilization
- Apply Pre Emergent 1 to 2 weeks prior to germination in late spring or summer\*
- Use Post Emergent when weeds are small\*

\* Pre Emergent and Post Emergent available at Ideal Turf

## WEEDS

### GRASSES

Poa Annua



Photo by: Forest & Kim Starr

- Intense mowing
- Watering too much
- Poorly drained soils
- Cooler temperatures
- Too much fertilizer is used
- Found in wet, compacted soils
- Early spring and late fall

## SOLUTION

- Maintain dense turf
- Avoid over watering, over fertilization, and compacted soil conditions
- Use Pre Emergent before weed germination in late Summer and early Fall\*
- Use Post Emergent during periods of active growth during cool, moist periods\*

### BROADLEAF

Clover



- Found in moist, infertile soils
- Occur when mowing too short
- Watering too much
- May to September

- Maintain dense turf
- Do not heavily fertilize with phosphorus
- Hand pulling is NOT effective
- Post Emergent in mid Spring to early Summer, and mid to late Fall when weeds are actively growing\*

Dandelion



- Thrives in moist areas in full sun
- Where grass is thinning out
- Flowering period is from early spring to late fall

- Maintain dense turf
- Mow often to remove seed heads before seed maturation and hand pull from root
- Post Emergent during active growth, mid spring to early summer, and/or mid to late fall\*
- Pre Emergent should be applied BEFORE seed germination\*

Ground Ivy  
(Creeping Charlie)



- Grows best in moist or poorly drained soils
- Thrives in the shade, but can spread into sunny areas
- Fertile soils
- April to June

- GROUND IVY IS VERY DIFFICULT TO CONTROL
- Maintain dense turf
- Reduce shade and reduce watering
- Mechanical removal is difficult and not very effective
- Apply Post Emergent mid spring to early summer and mid to late fall when actively growing\*

Henbit



Photo by: University of California

- Moist and fertile soils
- Occur in cooler temperatures
- Fall and early spring

- Maintain dense turf
- Can be hoed or hand pulled
- Apply Post Emergent mid to late spring and again mid to late fall\*
- Pre Emergent can be applied late summer before germination\*

Thistle



- More common in cooler temps
- Grows well in full sun & moist soils
- Occur in open disturbed areas, like along roadsides (poor open turf)

- HARD TO CONTROL A MATURE PLANT
- Maintain dense turf
- Dig it up with shovel or spade or mow the flowers and burn the debris
- Apply Post Emergent mid spring to early summer and mid to late fall during active growth\*

Yellow Woodsorrel



Photo by: University of Minnesota | Extension

- Moist, open, fertile sites
- Mid spring to mid fall

- THIS WEED IS DIFFICULT TO CONTROL
- Maintain dense turf
- Hand pull
- Pre Emergent before germination in spring\*
- Post Emergent mid spring to early summer and/or mid to late fall during active growth\*

\* Pre Emergent and Post Emergent available at Ideal Turf