

Common Weeds



What's a weed?

A weed is unwanted and may be impacting nearby desired plants. What you consider a weed, others might enjoy or desire. Weeds can be used as indicators to help improve our soil for desired plants.

Annual Versus Perennial

Annual weeds die every year and come back from self-seeding. Perennial weeds grow back every year.

Annual Weeds



Broadleaf Plantain: Broad oval leaves in a rosette, stock rising from the center, deep taproots

Indicates: Poor drainage/compacted, low pH; High calcium, potassium, phosphorus

Removal: Aerate, add lime, compost, compost tea



Chickweed: Forms mats with pairs of yellow-green leaves on slender stems.

Indicates: Low calcium, phosphorus; High nitrogen, organic matter, potassium, magnesium

Removal: Pull by hand, overseed late in the summer before weed reestablishes



Crabgrass: Coarse textured yellow-green grass with reddish, branched stems.

Indicates: Low calcium, bacteria; High compaction, nitrogen, potassium, mowing too short

Removal: Pull by hand before going to seed, aerate, add calcium, compost, compost tea, overseed late in the summer before weed reestablishes

Perennial Weeds



Chicory: Leaves resemble dandelions, blue flowers on wiry stem early summer to fall, taproots

Indicates: Low calcium, nitrogen, humus; High potassium, sulfur, anaerobic

Removal: Dig deeply to remove taproot, add calcium, nitrogen, compost, compost tea



Creeping Charlie: Low-growing, creeping plant with scalloped leaves and small, purple flowers

Indicates: Poor drainage, low nitrogen, bacteria; High calcium, iron, sulfur

Removal: Dethatch, add nitrogen, compost, compost tea



Curly Dock: Often confused with dandelion, has long serrated leaves and taproots

Indicates: Poor drainage, low calcium, pH, bacteria; High phosphorus, potassium, magnesium

Removal: Aerate, add calcitic lime, compost, compost tea



Hawkweed: Hairy, long leaves, bright orange and yellow flowers on leafless stems

Indicates: Low calcium, nitrogen, phosphorus, humus, bacteria, pH

Removal: Add nitrogen, compost, compost tea, calcitic lime



Violet: Common ground cover with heart shaped leaves, purple or white flowers in the spring

Indicates: Low calcium, pH

Removal: Remove root system, add calcitic lime