

# Weed Control for Home Landscapes and Gardens

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Management of weeds in the home landscape or garden is a problem due to the variety of species used in these plantings and the planting often includes both annuals and perennials. Weed control can be accomplished using chemical and non-chemical techniques.

A general plan for weed control in home gardens and landscapes include taking into consideration the following factors:

## **Management (culture)**

- A. groundcovers - good choice of groundcover which is competitive with weeds by having a closed canopy will reduce the number of annual weeds by shading the germinating seedlings
- B. sprinklers - placement, type

## **Non-chemical controls**

- A. mulch - organic (bark, straw, etc.) or inorganic (lava rock, marble chips, etc.), 2-4 inches is best as a deeper mulch may cause root damage due to overwet soil
- B. landscape cloth (geotextiles) - does a good job in controlling broadleaves, some grasses but this is a long term method of weed control and does not lend itself to plantings of annuals in the landscape, often used in concert with mulches, non-woven and woven materials are available
- C. hand-weeding - time consuming but is often the only choice where plants may be injured by herbicides

## **Chemical controls (herbicides)**

- A. Selective or non-selective

Examples:

Selective: Herbicides containing 2,4-D will kill broadleaf species but not harm grasses

Non-selective: Herbicides containing glyphosate will injure or kill broadleaf plants and grasses

B. Preemergent or postemergent

1. Preemergent herbicides

a. must be applied prior to weed seed germination

b. applied to soil

2. Postemergent herbicides

a. applied to weeds that have already emerged

b. drift onto susceptible plants must be avoided

