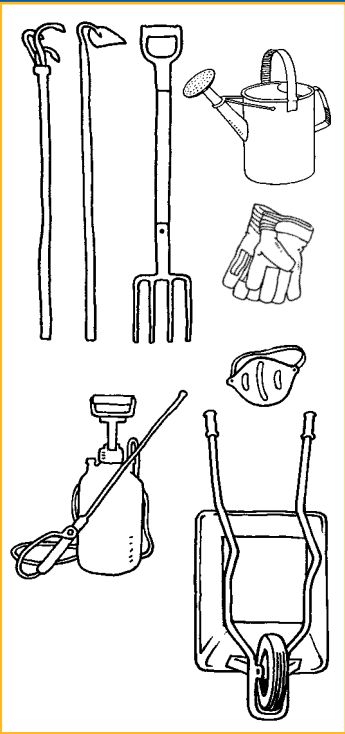


Tools for the job



Cultivator

Hoe

Garden Fork

Wheelbarrow

Protective Clothing

Spray Equipment or Watering Can

All the help you need

✓ Your Materials Checklist		
		PRICE
	Herbicides – as required	

Verbal quotes are indicative only. Written quotes on materials are available upon request from your Mitre 10 store.

Chemical Methods

Weedkillers (herbicides) can make life a lot easier in the garden. But treat them with respect – perhaps using only as a last resort depending on how severe the infestation is, the types of weeds and plants present, and the area to be covered.

Total Weedkillers: These must be used with great care. Choose a day when there is little or no wind to cause drift onto your cultivated plants and killing them, too. In area where long term control is required, such as along fences, pathways, driveways and tennis courts, use a once-a-year-path weeder like those produced by Yates and Hortico. They kill most weeds and prevent weed seeds from germinating. But as the name implies, they last in the soil for up to 12 months. So be sure not to use where there's a chance of the herbicide running on to lawn or garden beds. In areas where weed killing is required but the ground is to be cultivated and planted up shortly afterwards, Mitre 10 Glyphosate is recommended. This herbicides has no residual effect on the soil and the area treated can be used within 2–3-weeks.

Selective Weedkillers: These kill only the weeds they are made to eradicate, and there's a range of them for lawns depending on the problem. For example of only broad leaf weeds (the Dicots as mentioned earlier) while leaving grass (Monocots) to flourish. As with weedkillers, be careful of spray drift on to cultivated plants. And do not use grass clippings from the treated area for mulch or as feed for livestock. Bindii is a common problem in lawns in New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia and spraying with Yates Bindii & Clover Killer when actively growing can control it.

Other selective herbicides are available to control Paspalum, Crab grass, Mullumbimby, Couch, Winter grass, and Carpet grass. As defined earlier, a weed is a plant growing out of place. And in lawns, this can be any grass different to the chosen lawn grass. For example, Carpet grass infestation in a lawn of Queensland Blue Couch – this is best controlled with spot spraying. Yates Antipas will control Paspalum, Crab grass, Summer grass, and Mullumbimby Couch in lawns of Bent grass, Fescue and Couch (this herbicide may not be available in all states).

Of course, the best way to prevent weeds invading your lawn is to have a regular program of feeding, watering and mowing (refer to MitrePlan No. 51, "Caring for Established Lawns").

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10/10 handy hints to make the job easier.

- Try to dig the weeds out first rather than use chemical sprays.
- If the weeds have lots of runners or suckers don't use a rotary hoe until the weeds are dead.
- Use one of the great hand tools available for removing flat weeds in your lawn.
- Lawn weeder feeders are the best way to improve lawn growth and get rid of the weeds at the same time.
- Check the labels on any chemical for the safety directions.
- Never store chemicals where the children can get to them.
- Always use protective equipment specified by the chemical label.

Mitre 10 gratefully acknowledges the assistance of **Mr Robert McMillan, SDH, Cert Public Parks Hort (Scotland), Dip TT, and Mr Ronald Barrow, Dip Hort Sci, Cert Sprinkler Design, DTT, MAIH** in the preparation of this MitrePlan.

MITREPLAN



Destroy common garden weeds

IMPORTANT: This project planner has been produced to provide basic information and our experienced staff are available to answer any questions you may have. However, this information is provided for use on the understanding that Mitre 10 is not liable for any claim, cost, expense, loss or damage which is suffered or incurred (including but not limited to indirect or consequential loss), for any personal injury or damage to property suffered or sustained as a result of or arising out of or in any way connected with using the information contained in this MitrePlan Project Planner. Mitre 10 advises you to call in a qualified tradesperson, such as an electrician or plumber, where expert services are required, and to independently assess any safety precautions that will need to be followed prior to using the information in this MitrePlan Project Planner.

WARNING: There may be by laws or regulations of councils or other statutory bodies that you must comply with when following this MitrePlan Project Planner.



Your local MITRE 10 Store is:

MITRE 10
All the help you need

MITREPLAN

Destroy common garden weeds



MITRE 10 All the help you need

PROJECT PLANNER

An easy-to-follow guide to achieving a 10/10 result.

Outlines all the tools you will need for the job.

Including materials checklist.

PLEASE NOTE: Before starting this project or buying any materials, it is well worth your time to read through all steps first to be sure you understand what is required.

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No. 54

www.mitre10.com.au

Weed'em out for a clean, healthy garden – with a little help from Mitre 10.

The trouble with unwanted weeds is that their growth generally occurs at the same time as those plants you do want, robbing them of space, light, moisture and nutrients. They're also a good hiding place for pests and diseases and can make your garden look unattractive.

But weeds mean different things to different people. A daisy growing in a lawn is attractive to some but not to others. It's the same for clover and other plants including the Lantana camara which is a cultivated plant in Victoria but a noxious weed in NSW and Queensland.

Weeds are generally defined as a plant (any plant) considered out of its rightful place. For example, grass in a lawn is desirable, but it is a weed in a garden bed. And in this MitrePlan, we help you spot and identify those plants that shouldn't be there, and tell you the best means of controlling them for a cleaner, healthier garden.

FRONT COVER: Steaming compost with recently added layers of leaves, weeds, soil and shredded paper.



Step 1: Know the enemy

Before you can successfully control or eradicate weeds, it is important to understand their characteristics and growth habits. Generally, all weeds have some of these basic traits:

- vigorous and persistent growth, allowing them to establish themselves quickly and often grow faster than plants already there;
- difficulty in eradication;
- propagate easily from roots left lying on the ground;
- a short life cycle of some weeds means seed is produced quickly;
- produce large quantities of seed;
- spread seed quickly through special dispersal methods such as burrs;
- seeds can remain dormant in the soil for many years.

Weed Groups

Like all plants, weeds fall into two main groups. You need to know this if you are planning to use a chemical (herbicide) to control a particular type of weed.

Monocots – plants producing one seed leaf when they germinate. The leaf is long and narrow, and has parallel veins, eg. grass.

Dicots – plants producing two leaves on germinating. Leaves are broad and have a network of veins, eg. clover.

Growth Habits

You should also know whether weeds grow annually, biennially or perennially – this can determine your method of controlling them, either by chemical or mechanical means.

Annuals complete their cycle in one year or less and may have several generations in that year. Aim to destroy them before they produce seed. Some examples are Cape weed, winter grass, stinging nettle, Chickweed, bindii and petty surge.

Biennials have two year cycles, flowering and producing seed in the second year. They should be destroyed in their first season. Examples include fennel, Patterson's Curse, and Evening, blackberries, and carpet grass are prime examples.

Step 2: Weed control

Most weeds in the home garden can be effectively controlled with good garden practices such as;

- removing weeds as soon as they appear;
- mulching where possible to suppress weed growth;
- ensuring soil introduced is free of invasive weeds;
- removing annual weeds before they seed;
- removing perennial weeds before they seed and ensuring you get their roots as well.

Hand weeding: Probably still the best method in the home garden or for small areas.



















Mechanical Weeding: Using a garden fork, cultivator or Dutch hoe to

remove weeds is the most practical and sensible method in many cases. The secret is to spend just a few minutes a day when the weeds are small and easy to remove rather than putting it off until the problem gets out of hand. Then it becomes a back-breaking task – and an unnecessary one – spoiling your pleasure of gardening.

Mowing: Regular mowing of lawns prevent taller weeds from flowering and seeding.

Mulching: Smothers weed seedling before they become a problem and has the added benefits of keeping the soil moist and cool in summer.

Common Weeds

WEED	WEED NAME	REMEDY	WEED	WEED NAME	REMEDY	WEED	WEED NAME	REMEDY
	Common Lawn Weeds: Bindii (Soliva pterosperma) Clover (Trifolium repens)	Bindii is an annual and clover is a perennial. Particularly invasive of lawns. Control with "Bindii & Clover Killer".		Black Nightshade (Solanum nigrum)	Annual all states. Spray anytime it is actively growing with "Roundup" or "Yates Broadleaf Weed Killer". Poisonous berries.		Ribwort Plantain (Plantago lanceolata)	Perennial all states. Spray when plants are at young growth stage. Use "Lawn Weeder" or "Roundup" in open areas. Fork out for light infestations.
	Annual Grasses: Winter Grass (Poa--annua) Veldt grass (Ehrharta-sps)	Annuals all states. Remove them by hand from garden beds. When in lawns encourage strong lawn growth. Use Roundup herbicide only when severe.		Dandelion (Taraxacum officinale)	Perennial all states. Spray when actively growing with "Yates Broadleaf Weed Killer" in lawns, "Roundup" in open situations. For light infestation, fork out of ground.		Milk Thistle (Sonchus oleradeus)	(Sow thistle) Annual all states. Spray when actively growing with "Roundup" or "Broadleaf Weed Killer". Easily controlled by hand weeding.
	Perennial Creeping Grasses: Couch (Cynodon-dactylon) Paspalum (Paspalum-digatum) Kikuyu (Pennisetum-clandestinum) Buffalo Grass (Stenataphrum Seandatum)	Perrenial Grasses. Difficult to remove from lawns. Use spot sprays with Roundup or Zero and over sow the dead areas. Use Crabgrass and Clover Killer for Paspalum in lawns. In garden beds use hand dig if possible or use Roundup or Zero.		Sorrel Mud Dock Swamp Dock Curled Dock Red Dock (Rumex sps)	Perennial all states. Spray when actively growing with "Roundup" in open situations, "Yates Broadleaf Weed Killer" in lawns. For light infestation, fork out of ground.		Small Nettle (Urtica-urens)	Annual all states. Spray when actively growing with "Broadleaf Weed Killer". For light infestation, use a hoe to remove nettles.
	Grasses in wet areas. Mullumbimby couch. Umbrella Sedge. Nut grass (Cyperus-sps)	Perennial grasses with invasive roots and tough leaves. In gardens hand weed. Where severe use Paspalum Killer, Roundup or Zero. On pathways use Once A Year Pathweeder.		Oxalis (Sour Sob) (many species)	Perennial all states. Spray from July to October with "Bindii & Clover Lawn Weeder", or "Roundup".		Creeping Buttercup (Ranunculus repens and many species)	Perennial all states. Spray when actively growing with "Lawn Weeder" or "Roundup".
	Bracken (Pteridium esculentum)	Perennial all states. Slash in Spring to early summer. From February to April with "Roundup".		Petty Spurge (Euphorbia peplus)	Annual all states. Spray with "Broadleaf Weed Killer" or "Roundup". Handweed if light infestation.		Mallow (Malva spp.)	Perennial all states. Spray when actively growing with "Roundup".
	Cape Weed (Arctotheca-calendula)	Annual all states. Spray any time if is actively growing with "Bindii & Clover Killer" or "Yates Broadleaf Weed Killer". Hand weed if light infestation.		Vinca major Periwinkle	A common garden escape into the wild. This is a bad weed for the environment. Control by hand weeding. Where necessary spray with Roundup or Tree and Blackberry Killer.		Scotch Thistle Soldier Thistle Canadian Thistle (Cirsium sps) (Onopordum acanthium)	Biennials and Perennials all states. In gardens they are best dug out. On waste land and fence lines use Roundup, or Zero when actively growing.