

# Spotting Problem Plants

## WEED REMOVAL TIPS

- Identify the plant
- Weed when the ground is damp (e.g., after rain, watering)
- Remove plants when they are small
- Minimize soil disturbance & tamp open soil to reduce exposing more weed seeds to light
- Start at the area with the fewest weeds & keep it clear; work towards higher weed density areas
- Dispose of seeding plants properly

## ANNUAL WEED CONTROL

- Keep bare soil covered to prevent seeds from sprouting
- Hand-pull, mow & string-trim growing plants frequently  
(*Flame weeding possible*)
- Use pre-emergent herbicides  
(*if necessary*)
- Focus on preventing seed formation & removing seeds
  - Winter Weeds in May/June
  - Summer Weeds Aug/Sept

## BIENNIAL WEED CONTROL

- Focus on preventing seed formation & removing seeds
- Hand-pull or flame weed small (1<sup>st</sup>-year) plants
- String trim/mow 2<sup>nd</sup>-year plants frequently to prevent seed formation
- Use root-removing tools to remove bolting (2<sup>nd</sup>-year) plants
- Use broadleaf herbicides if necessary

## PERENNIAL WEED CONTROL

- May take multiple years
- Remove small plants, including roots & runners
- Mow & string-trim plants during flowering to prevent seed formation
- Consider smothering (*light deprivation*) & solarization
- Use appropriate herbicides if necessary

## WEEDY TREE CONTROL

- Remove fruit/fruitlet individuals first
- Cut tree & treat stump with herbicide (most effective) OR cover stump
- Girdle-cut tree trunk & leave standing
- Prescribed burns or torch weeding can kill small trees; check your city ordinances
- *NOTE: Cutting & girdling may cause trees to re-sprout*

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## LEARN MORE WITH THESE RESOURCES

*PRO-TIP: Put "site:edu" (or site:gov) before your search term "garden weeds" for research-based advice*

- ❖ Is this plant a weed? (University of MN Extension) <https://extension.umn.edu/yard-and-garden>
- ❖ Virginia Tech Weed ID Guide <https://weedid.cals.vt.edu/>
- ❖ Minnesota Wildflowers <https://www.minnesotawildflowers.info/>
- ❖ Weed ID (University of WI-Madison) <http://weedid.wisc.edu/weedid.php>
- ❖ MnDOT's Minnesota Noxious Weeds <https://www.dot.state.mn.us/roadsides/vegetation/pdf/noxiousweeds.pdf>
- ❖ Smart phone apps: iNaturalist, Seek by iNaturalist, PlantSnap

## **CLASS NOTES**

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### **REMINDERS FOR LATER**

How will I identify the problem plants in my yard/garden?

What kind of life cycle do my problem plants have?

Which control tools are available to me?