

# LAWN WEEDS THAT SNEAK UP ON YOU

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**CHICKWEED**



**HENBIT**



**WILD VIOLETS**



**YELLOW NUTSEDGE  
IN LAWN**

Most common weeds in your lawn such as crabgrass or dandelions (spring mums!), are relatively easy to manage. There are also weeds that go undetected until they pull a sneak attack on your beautiful lawn; by the time you notice them, they are in full blown nuisance mode. Treating weeds at this stage is called “revenge treatment” and control can be inconsistent.

Rather than wait until they have the upper hand, let’s briefly review some troublesome weeds and strategies to successfully control them.

***Chickweed and Henbit***- Unlike most weeds that germinate in spring, these are **winter annuals that germinate in the fall**. After germination, they stay small, hiding under the cover of your grass until early spring. Oftentimes they are the first broadleaf weeds you see in late February or early March.

***Ferti-lome Weed Free Zone*** is a spray you can use postemerge **in fall or spring**.

***Wild Violets***- Count your blessings if you don’t have this perennial broadleaf weed. If you do, you have two choices; either live and let live preparing for it to take over everything in the lawn and garden, or strengthen your resolve to defeat it with spring and fall treatments. Unfortunately, many weed control products list wild violets on their labels, but the reality is that ***Hi-Yield Triclopyr Ester*** is the only product available to homeowners that gets the job done. This is only available as a sprayable and can be applied spring through fall. Always include ***Ferti-lome Spreader-sticker*** in the spray mix for this application.

***Yellow Nutsedge***- Yellow nutsedge is neither a broadleaf nor grassy weed, but a sedge. It’s a perennial that tends to be most troublesome in overwatered lawns or low lying areas that stay wet- hence the nicknames of swampgrass or watergrass. Though it resembles a grass, the light green, shiny leaves stand out in a lawn, especially a few days after mowing. Then the nutsedge leaves shoot up taller than the surrounding grass. Ignore this weed long enough and it **WILL TAKE OVER YOUR LAWN!** Since this is not a broadleaf or grass, traditional herbicides are ineffective. However there are products that tilt control in your favor. ***Ortho Nutsedge Killer*** with Sulfentrazone is available in a ready-to-use spray bottle and best for small areas. For larger areas where this weed is gaining the upper hand, Halosulfuron-methyl is available in various formulations from several companies for use in pump up sprayers. Regardless of which product you use, the best time to apply them is in late spring or early summer before the weed matures, and multiple applications may be needed.

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**POA ANNUA**

**POA-ANNUA**- This grassy weed is also known as annual bluegrass, but you **never, ever** want to confuse this wretched plant with bluegrass seed you sow in your lawn. As the name implies, it's an annual that you will first notice in early spring. In the summer, it tends to die back, and you may think it's gone forever. The reality is it takes a tactical retreat and comes back again in the fall. While it can grow in any part of the lawn, it tends to be most common around sidewalks, driveways or curbs where the ground is compacted and the lawn is thin. Poa is a prolific seed producer and low growing, so your mower does not have a chance to cut the weed before producing seed. **Do not think a good strategy to set your mower height to its lowest setting solves the problem. That strategy is guaranteed to fail.** Instead, best control is with a pre-emerge herbicide such as *Ferti-lome For All Seasons* (with prodiamine) or Hi-Yield Turf and Ornamental Weed and Grass Stopper (containing dimethipate). This product can be applied in late August, **only** if you are not fall seeding. On the other hand, an early spring application may be the best choice for our area. This application should be made in February vs. later in the spring for other more common weeds.



**BARNYARD GRASS**

**BARNYARD GRASS**- This is an annual grassy weed which is widespread throughout the Midwest. While not a major problem in most yards, you will know when you have it. It has an ultra- wide leaf blade (1/2-5/8 inch) and is fast growing. Another distinguishing characteristic is a flattened stem and purple coloration at the plant base. A pre-emerge herbicide is the best option here such as *Ferti-lome's Barricade* (prodiamine) but it should be applied sooner than applications for most other weeds, around mid-February.

**ORCHARDGRASS**- This perennial grass occasionally shows up in older lawns that were seeded with Kentucky 31 fescue (a pasture grass- not a lawn grass). It can only be controlled with glyphosate (Kill-Zall or Roundup) in lawns. Ferti-lome Over The Top II and Ortho Grass Killer are also labeled in non-lawn situations.



**ORCHARDGRASS**



**NIMBLEWILL**

**NIMBLEWILL**- This is a perennial grassy weed that closely resembles zoysia and bermudagrass. In fact it is related to them, but has a finer leaf and more fibrous root system. It easily pulls out of the ground when soils are wet but leaves a smaller runner than zoysia or bermuda. The only control in lawns is by hand pulling or spraying with glyphosate. Early August is the best time to treat and then you can seed the area in September.

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