

Turf Weed Control



COMMON LAWN WEEDS



Crowsfoot Grass
Eleusine indica

Description: A summer annual grassy weed with tough, dark green flattened stems and strap-like leaves. Leaf blades are smooth with a folded vernation and white sheaths. Seed-head possesses two to ten spikelets on a long stem.

Propagation: Seeds from late spring through autumn.

Cultural: Avoid allowing plants to go to seed.



Capeweed
Arctotheca calendula

Description: A rosette forming winter annual with deeply lobed leaves possessing a white, downy underside. Inflorescence possesses many small flowers in a black disc with creamy white radiating florets.

Propagation: Seeds heavily from late winter through spring.

Cultural: ensure entire tap root is removed when hand weeding.



Summergrass
Digitaria spp.

Description: A creeping summer annual grass rooting at the nodes. Leaf sheaths pubescent and sometimes purple in colour. Leaves are broad, glossy and rolled in the sheath. Seed head appears in late summer to autumn as 2-10 branches (depending on species) on a solitary stem, producing black sticky seeds.

Propagation: Seed.

Cultural: Avoid allowing plants to seed on site.



Nutgrass
Cyperus esculentus

Description: A rapidly spreading perennial sedge with flat leaves and stems that are triangular in cross section. Nutgrass possesses strings of underground tubers making it difficult to control through physical removal. During seeding, yellowish, brown seeds are produced in narrow spikelets on an umbel-like inflorescence.

Propagation: Seeds in summer and can regrow from tubers and rhizomes.

Cultural: Ensure full removal of tubers and rhizomes when hand weeding.



Dandelion
Taraxacum officinale

Description: A stemless, rosette forming perennial weed with deeply lobed, inverted leaves. Bright yellow flowers are produced in spring and summer and appear on long purple, hollow stems. Seeds form a characteristic puff ball like globe and are easily carried away on the wind.

Propagation: From wind-carried seed and through fragments of tap root.

Cultural: Prevent infestations from seeding and ensure all tap root material is extracted during hand weeding.



Wintergrass
Poa annua

Description: A tufted winter annual with light to dark green leaves, emerging from autumn through to spring and can persist year-round in shaded areas of nurseries. Seedheads emerge quickly after germination, producing vast amounts of seed which are easily distributed by wind, water and traffic.

Propagation: Prolific seeder.

Cultural: Avoid allowing plants to seed on site.



Mullumbimby Couch
Cyperus brevifolius

Description: A matt-forming, grass-like perennial sedge to 15cm in height with dark green, glossy leaves, and stems triangular in cross section. Inflorescence is a single round compact spike with three short leaves protruding from underneath, flowering throughout the warmer months.

Propagation: Propagated through seed and rhizome parts.

Cultural: ensure removal of all rhizome material when hand weeding.



Bindii
Soliva sessilis

Description: A low growing, rosette forming weed that roots at the nodes to form additional rosettes. Leaves twice divided into narrow segments, resembling tiny carrot-like leaves. As the plant dies off in spring the seeds harden to sharp burrs that painfully lodge in feet.

Propagation: Propagated through seed.

Cultural: Ensure control of weed before seed onset in spring.

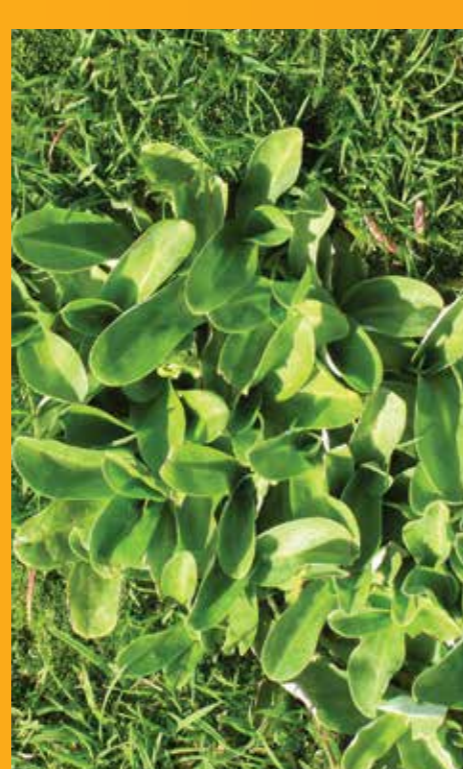


White Clover
Trifolium repens

Description: A creeping, low-growing perennial with green trifoliate compound leaves. Leaves are subtly heart-shaped with lightly serrated margins and a central white ring around the base of each leaflet. White, creamy paper-like flowers emerge during spring and autumn, often attracting bees.

Propagation: Seed and possibly stolon material.

Cultural: Remove infestation prior to seeding.



Cudweed, everlasting
Gnaphalium and *Gamochaeta* spp.

Description: Group of winter annuals or biennials that form a basal rosette of waxy green oblong to oblique leaves. Prominent characteristic is silvery white, lightly pubescent underside of leaves. Varying flowering habit, though most flower from mid spring to early summer, or in autumn. Flowers can be brown, pink or purple.

Propagation: Prolific seeder.

Cultural: Avoid allowing plants to seed on site.



Creeping oxalis, woodsorrel
Oxalis corniculata

Description: A mat-forming perennial with slender rhizomes and thin, highly branched stems that root at the nodes. Leaves are alternate, divided into three semi-folded heart shaped leaflets. Bright yellow tiny flowers with five petals appear in spring and summer, producing narrow capsules that explode, dispersing long distances.

Propagation: Seed and stem fragments.

Cultural: Avoid allowing plants to seed on site.



Mouse ear chickweed
Cerastium vulgatum

Description: Similar to common chickweed in growth habit, forming low mats and occasionally climbing into the canopy of nursery stock. Mouse ear chickweed is a perennial and roots at the nodes, leaves are grey-green and prominently pubescent.

Propagation: Seed and vegetative means.

Cultural: Avoid allowing plants to seed on site.



Bittercress, flickweed
Cardamine spp.

Description: A winter annual that forms a low rosette of dark green, rounded leaves. Initially has a flat growth habit when young but produces upright stems when flowering. Flowers in late winter to spring, forming small white flowers that produce long thin capsules of fruit.

Propagation: Prolific seeder.

Cultural: Avoid allowing plants to seed on site.



Canadian Fleabane, horseweed
Conyza bonariensis

Description: Upright winter annual that may persist as biennial. Seedlings form from a basal rosette, becoming upright. Alternate, lanceolate leaves with serrations on leaf margins. Leaves lightly pubescent up to 12cm long. Flowers throughout year to produce a cluster of small yellow flowers on upright central stem.

Propagation: Prolific seeder.

Cultural: Avoid allowing plants to seed on site. Remove all vegetative matter when hand-weeding.



Kidney Weed
Dichondra repens

Description: A creeping perennial weed with running stems rooting at the node. Leaves are slightly cupped, kidney shaped and glossy dark green. Often found as a weed in shaded, moist nursery containers. Flowers throughout summer, producing solitary flowers along the stems.

Propagation: Seed.

Cultural: Avoid allowing plants to seed on site.



Petty spurge, radium weed
Euphorbia peplis

Description: An upright summer annual growing up to 30 cm tall. Smooth glabrous stems branching at nodes and oval, opposite leaves. Produces small flowers at the ends of stems, surrounded by characteristic bracts. Can produce seed when very immature.

Propagation: Seed.

Cultural: Avoid allowing plants to seed on site, control weeds when seedlings are young.



Caustic weed, prostrate spurge
Chamaesyce maculata

Description: Low growing summer annual that can persist year round in warmer areas. Opposite, round to oblong leaves pale green to purple green with characteristic dark spot on leaf centre. Stems are creeping and produce milky sap when broken. Small flowers appear at ends of stems throughout summer. Can produce seed when very immature.

Propagation: Seed.

Cultural: Avoid allowing plants to seed on site, control weeds when seedlings are young.



Pearlwort
Sagina procumbens

Description: Low growing, mat forming winter annual with thin leaves 1-2cm long. Often forms clumps that appear similar to moss. Small solitary white flowers appear in spring and early summer that produce large amounts of seed dispersed by wind and water. Often found in moist, shaded pots in nurseries.

Propagation: Prolific seeder.

Cultural: Improve drainage and avoid excess moisture in pots.



Liverwort
Marchantia spp.

Description: Group of primitive, terrestrial bryophyte plants with mat forming habit that grows on rocky and soil surfaces. Dry or dead liverworts can form a water repellent surface in pots. Irregular shaped plants 2-8cm wide, covered in cup-like structures. Spores are produced throughout year and dispersed by wind and water.

Propagation: Spores.

Cultural: Inspect purchased stock and remove infestations before spreading.



Common chickweed
Stelaria media

Description: A low growing, mat forming winter annual that may persist into summer. Opposite, sparsely hairy leaves oval to elliptical in shape growing along creeping stems. Flowers from early spring into summer producing small white flowers in clusters at the end of stems.

Propagation: Seed and vegetative means.

Cultural: Avoid allowing plants to seed on site.