

THE PURDUE LANDSCAPE REPORT

Developing a Weed Management Plan for Your Properties

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How did your weed control program perform this year? Could you be 10% more efficient? Could you make your clients 10% more satisfied with the level of weed control? In today's labor market, improving efficiency is the single best way to reallocate labor to other, more profitable, jobs. One aspect of improving efficiency in your operation is reducing the amount of visits. By improving your weed control efficiency, you may be able to reduce the number of visits, even if by one time per season.



Figure 1. High end properties or properties that have high weed pressure could benefit from a comprehensive weed management plan.

Each property you maintain might not need an individual weed management plan, but consider developing a plan for large properties or properties with a significant weed problem. Taking some time this winter to begin thinking about your previous weed management protocols and potential plans for the following year will improve your efficiency next season.

Some suggestions on what to include in weed management plan:

- Ornamental species in bed
- Major weed present
- History of weed control in area
- Potential cultural, mechanical, and chemical controls
- Potential preemergence and postemergence options

Some suggestions on what to include in the year-end evaluation of your weed control plan:

- Cultural, mechanical, and/or chemical controls implemented
- Efficacy of cultural, mechanical, and/or chemical controls
- Efficacy of preemergence and postemergence herbicides implemented

These are merely suggestions for you to consider for your weed management plan, as every company will need to tailor a weed management plan and evaluation based on their specific operations and needs.

I've included an example weed management plan and weed management evaluation to get you started. As always, feel free to contact me if you have any questions or issues.

PURDUE UNIVERSITY Horticulture and Landscape Architecture Landscape Weed Management Plan				
Property Name				
Area Name	(i.e. front bed, side bed, etc.)			
Date				
Ornamental species in beds	Grass	Broadleaf	Sedge	
Types of weeds present				
Weeds present	Summer annual	Winter annual	Biennial	Perennial
Life cycle of weeds present				
History of past weed control				
Bed irrigated	Yes	no		
Potential cultural controls				
Potential mechanical controls				
Preemergence herbicides				
Postemergence herbicides				
When to apply herbicides				

Figure 2. Developing a weed management plan could help with efficiency next season.

PURDUE UNIVERSITY Horticulture and Landscape Architecture Landscape Weed Management Evaluation				
Property Name				
Area Name	(i.e. front bed, side bed, etc.)			
Date				
	Grass	Broadleaf	Sedge	
Types of weeds present				
Weeds present				
Cultural control implemented				
Mechanical control implemented				
Preemergence control implemented				
Postemergence control implemented				
Efficacy of mechanical				
Efficacy of cultural				
Efficacy of preemergence				
Efficacy of postemergence				

Figure 3. It's important to develop a way to evaluate your weed management plan.

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