
















## Common Garden Weeds of Western Los Angeles County – Project SOUND




Name	Growth	Spreads by	Plant-specific Physical Control	Chemical Control*	Notes
<b>Annual Weeds – flower &amp; set seed in 1 growing season, then die</b>					
<p><b>Clovers</b> (annual) <b>Burclovers</b> <i>Medicago</i> species</p>  <p><b>Sweet Clovers</b> <i>Melilotus</i> species</p> 	<p>Herbaceous Annual Cool seas.</p>	<p>Seed</p>	<p>Avoid high phosphate fertilizers Mulch often helpful; must be thick Mechanical weeding (fairly easy)</p>	<p>Pre-emergent – usually not necessary</p> <p>Post-emergent – only effective with very young plants; usually not needed or effective</p> <p>See UC IPC site for current recommendations</p>	<p>Seeds very long-lived; disturb soil as little as possible</p>
<p><b>Common Purslane</b> <i>Portulaca oleracea</i></p> 	<p>Herbaceous Annual Warm seas</p>	<p>Seed Stem parts</p>	<p>Clean equipment to avoid introducing into garden Solarization Mulch &amp; low water often will control Mechanical weeding (easy) – don't leave stem pieces to root</p>	<p>Pre-emergent – usually not needed</p> <p>Spot-spraying with post-emergent</p> <p>See UC IPC site for current recommendations</p>	<p>Produces lots of seeds; monitor &amp; remove plants to avoid infestation</p>




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<p><b>Goosefoot, Nettle-leaf or Smooth</b>  <i>Chenopodium murale</i>  <i>Chenopodium album</i></p> 	<p>Herbaceous  Annual  Warm seas</p>	<p>Seed</p>	<p>Mulch – thick organic mulch best  Mechanical weeding – hoe or pull when young  Flaming (young plants)</p>	<p>Post-emergent – Roundup on very young plants</p>	
<p><b>Groundsel, Common</b>  <i>Senecio vulgaris</i></p> 	<p>Herbaceous  Annual  Cool seas</p>	<p>Seed</p>	<p>Mulch  Mechanical – shallow hoeing to remove young plants</p>		<p>Prolific seed-producer;</p>
<p><b>Knotweed, common</b>  <i>Polygonum arenastrum</i></p> 	<p>Herbaceous  Annual  Warm seas</p>	<p>Seed</p>	<p>Prevent soil compaction  Aerate soil  Mulch – thick organic mulch best  Mechanical weeding – hoe or pull when young  Flaming – young plants</p>	<p>Pre-emergent – not usually needed    Post-emergent – when young - 2,4-D    See UC IPC site for current recommendations</p>	<p>Often grows on bare, compacted soil</p>




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<p><b>Pineappleweed</b>  <i>Chamomilla suaveolens</i>  AKA <i>Matricaria matricarioides</i></p> 	Herbaceous Annual Cool seas but may be all season	Seed	Avoid bringing seed in on shoes, tools Mulch – thick organic mulch best Mechanical weeding – hoe or pull when young	Plant is resistant to many common herbicides	
<p><b>Puncture Vine</b>  <i>Tribulus terrestris</i></p> 	Herbaceous Annual Warm seas	Seed	Clean equipment & shoes to avoid Spreading Mulches – must block all light Mechanical weeding – hoe or pull when young; will take several years to exhaust soil seedbank Flaming (young plants)	Post-emergent – not usually needed  See UC IPC site for current recommendations	Ugly, spikey seedpods are bad for bare feet. Competes for water.
<p><b>Scarlet Pimpernel</b>  <i>Anagallis arvensis</i></p> 	Herbaceous Annual Warm seas	Seed	Solarization for badly infested soil Mulch – thick organic mulch best Mechanical weeding – hoe or pull when young		<b>May be toxic to pets if  eaten</b>

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<p><b>Sowthistle, Annual</b> <i>Sonchus oleraceus</i></p> 	<p>Herbaceous Annual Warm seas</p>	<p>Seed</p>	<p>Decrease watering frequency Mulch – thick organic mulch best Mechanical weeding – hoe or pull when young</p>		<p>Prolific seed-producer; seeds blow in wind</p>
<p><b>Spotted Spurge</b> <i>Euphorbia (Chamaesyce) maculate</i></p> 	<p>Herbaceous Annual Warm seas</p>	<p>Seed</p>	<p>Avoid bringing into garden – particularly in nursery pots, on equipment, clothing Soil solarization before planting Mulch – thick, coarse Mechanical – hand pull young</p>	<p>Pre-emergent in late winter  Post-emergent – may be helpful for large infestations  See UC IPC site for current recommendations</p>	<p>Stems have milky sap <b>that is poisonous – wear gloves &amp; avoid contact to eyes</b>  Prolific seed-producer This information also applies to other Spurges</p>
<p><b>Annual Bluegrass</b> <i>Poa annua</i></p> 	<p>Grass Annual Cool seas.</p>	<p>Seed</p>	<p>Avoid bringing into garden – particularly in nursery pots, on equipment, clothing Mulch - coarse, thick to block light Limit water; Zone 2 or 1-2 Mechanical weeding – before seeds</p>	<p>Pre-emergent  Post-emergent – spot treat  See UC IPC site for current recommendations</p>	




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<b>Biennial Weeds – grow only in first year; flower &amp; set seed the second year</b>					
<b>Marestail; Horseweed</b> <i>Conyza Canadensis</i> 	Herbaceous Biennial Warm seas	Seed	Shade out young seedlings Mulch – thick organic is best; renew yearly as needed Mechanical weeding – when very young (long taproot)		Rapid growth; competes for water
<b>Mustards</b> <i>Brassica</i> species 	Herbaceous Biennial Cool seas	Seed	Hand weed plants when small (before flowering); get as much of root as possible For large infestation, mow plants (will often take several mowings – even over years – for established stands	Post-emergent – non- selective herbicide applied to leaves prior to flowering	Plants release allelopathic chemicals into soil – inhibits germination of other seeds
<b>Short-lived Perennial Weeds – live 2-3 growing seasons in most garden situations; do not spread</b>					
<b>Cheeseweed</b> <i>Malva neglecta</i> <i>Malva parviflora</i> 	Herbaceous Annual/ perennial Cool seas	Seed	Shade out young seedlings Mulch – thick organic is best; renew yearly as needed Mechanical weeding – when very young (long taproot)	none	Seeds very long-lived




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<p><b>Cudweed, Weedy</b> <i>Gnaphalium luteo-album</i></p> 	<p>Herbaceous Annual Warm seas (primary)</p>	<p>Seed</p>	<p>Decrease watering Mechanical weeding – hoe or pull when young</p>	<p>See UC IPC site for current recommendations</p>	<p>Prolific seed-producer; Common on sandy soils</p>
<p><b>Nightshades – <i>Solanum</i> spp.</b> <i>Solanum nigrum</i> (most common)</p> 	<p>Herbaceous Annual/ perennial Cool seas</p>	<p>Seed</p>	<p>Withhold summer water Mulch – thick organic is best; renew yearly as needed Mechanical weeding – have shallow roots</p>	<p>See UC IPC site for current recommendations</p>	<p><b>Berries &amp; foliage poisonous if eaten – wash hands</b></p> <p>Grows well in part-shade</p>
<p><b>Oxalis/ Creeping Woodsorrel</b> <i>Oxalis corniculata</i></p> 	<p>Herbaceous Annual/ perennial Any seas.</p>	<p>Seed Stem-rooting</p>	<p>Avoid bringing into garden – particularly in nursery pots Mulch to prevent germination; must block all light Mechanical weeding – make sure that plants do not set seed; get as much root as possible</p>	<p>Pre-emergent – may require several applications Post-emergent – none See UC IPC site for current recommendations</p>	<p>Major weed problem in many gardens; seeds are expelled by capsules – spread away from parent plant; grows in both sun &amp; shade</p>

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<p><b>Crabgrass</b> <i>Digitaria</i> species</p> 	<p>Herbaceous Perennial Warm seas</p>	<p>Seed Stem-rooting</p>	<p>Clean tools, equipment, clothes to avoid introduction, spreading Soil solarization prior to planting Mulch – deep Mechanical weeding to prevent seed production</p>	<p>Pre-emergent - oryzalin, trifluralin, and benefin  Post-emergent – use selective (sethoxydim plus oil, fluazifop, or clethodim) or spot treat with non-selective  See UC IPC site for current recommendations</p>	
<b>Perennial Weeds – live more than 2 growing seasons; flower &amp; set seed over multiple years; most spread vegetatively</b>					
<p><b>Bermuda Buttercup</b> <i>Oxalis pes-caprae</i></p> 	<p>Herbaceous Perennial Cool seas.</p>	<p>Bulbs (primary)</p>	<p>Avoid bringing into garden in contaminated soil Solarize soil Mechanical – cut tops repeatedly to keep from flowering, making bulbs Mechanical – dig up bulbs – will take several years</p>	<p>Post-emergent – Round-up will kill top growth  See UC IPC site for current recommendations</p>	
<p><b>Bindweed</b> <i>Convolvulus arvensis</i></p> 	<p>Herbaceous Perennial Warm seas</p>	<p>Seed Rhizomes</p>	<p>Avoid bringing into garden in contaminated soil, mulch, pots Landscape fabric (+/-) Mechanical – vigilant cultivation (hoe) or hand pulling</p>	<p>Pre-emergent - See UC IPC site for current recommendations  Post-emergent - See UC IPC site for current recommendations</p>	<p>Difficult to control; Extensive, deep roots; Seeds very long-lived</p>

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<p><b>Broadleaf Plantain</b> <i>Plantago major</i></p> 	<p>Herbaceous Perennial Warm seas</p>	<p>Seed</p>	<p>Avoid over-watering Clean tools, equipment to avoid spreading Mulch and/or landscape fabric Mechanical weeding to prevent seed production – fairly easy</p>	<p>Pre-emergent Post-emergent – spot treat with Roundup</p> <p>See UC IPC site for current recommendations</p>	<p>Crowd out desirable plants, particularly grasses</p>
<p><b>Clovers</b> (perennial) <b>White Clover –</b> <i>Trifolium repens</i></p>  <p><b>Strawberry clover –</b> <i>Trifolium fragiferum</i></p>	<p>Herbaceous Perennial Cool seas.</p>	<p>Seed</p>	<p>Avoid high phosphate fertilizers Mulch often helpful; must be thick Mechanical weeding (fairly easy)</p>	<p>Pre-emergent – usually not necessary</p> <p>Post-emergent – only effective with very young plants; usually not needed or effective</p>	<p>Seeds very long-lived; disturb soil as little as possible</p>
<p><b>Dichondra</b> <i>Dichondra micrantha</i> (<i>Dichondra repens</i>)</p> 	<p>Herbaceous Perennial Warm seas.</p>	<p>Stollons &amp; rhizomes</p>	<p>Decrease water</p>	<p>See UC IPC site for current recommendations</p>	<p>Grows in part-shade; very difficult to eradicate, particularly in sandy soils</p>



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<p><b>Bermuda Grass</b> <i>Cynodon dactylon</i></p> 	<p>Grass Perennial Warm seas</p>	<p>Stollons &amp; rhizomes (primary)  Seed</p>	<p>Clean tools, equipment, clothes to avoid introduction, spreading Soil solarization prior to planting Landscape fabric + mulch With-hold summer water (Zone 1) Shade (under trees, shrubs) Mechanical – rake &amp; remove dead stollons, rhizomes Mechanical – hand weed young Seedlings – be vigilant</p>	<p>Post-emergent – grass-selective types or spot treat with Roundup. Will take several applications  See UC IPC site for current recommendations</p>	<p>Planted as turf grass Difficult to eradicate Will grow through holes in landscape fabric</p>
<p><b>Fountain Grass</b> <i>Pennisetum species</i></p> 	<p>Grass Perennial Warm seas</p>	<p>Seed</p>	<p>Clean tools, equipment, clothes to avoid introduction, spreading Mechanical – remove early for ease in weeding, to prevent seeding; combine cutting with chemical controls to kill established plants</p>	<p>Pre-emergent – to limit seed germination – see product labels for best choice  Post-emergent – to spot treat (use non-selective herbicide); may not kill established plants  See UC IPC site for current recommendations</p>	<p>Planted as ornamental grasses; long-lived seed – even survives well after fire;  This information also true for other invasive ‘ornamental grasses’ like Pampas Grass</p>
<p><b>Kikuyu Grass</b> <i>Pennisetum clandestinum</i></p> 	<p>Grass Perennial Warm seas</p>	<p>Seed  Rhizomes  Stem sections</p>	<p>Clean tools, equipment, clothes to avoid introduction, spreading Avoid introduction in contaminated soils, sod, plants Soil solarization prior to planting Landscape fabric + mulch With-hold summer water (Zone 1) Mechanical – rake &amp; remove dead stollons, rhizomes Mechanical – hand weed young seedlings – be vigilant</p>	<p>Pre-emergent – to control seeds  Post-emergent – grass-selective types (Sethoxydim and fluazifop ) or spot treat with Roundup. Will take several applications</p>	<p>Planted as turf grass; Extremely aggressive – remove it before it spreads</p>

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<p><b>Nutsedge</b>  <i>Cyperus</i> species, most commonly  <i>Cyperus esculentus</i></p> 	<p>Grass-like  Perennial  Warm seas</p>	<p>Tubers (on  rhizomes)   Seed</p>	<p>With-hold summer water (Zone 1)  Shade (under trees, shrubs)  Mechanical – hand weed or hoe prior  to tuber formation (before plants have  5-6 leaves); must repeat every 2-3  weeks in summer</p> <p><b>No rototilling or other turning of  soil – will spread tubers</b></p>	<p>Post-emergent – must be  applied to very young  plants</p> <p>See UC IPC site for  current recommendations</p>	<p>Problematic in poorly  draining soils &amp; areas  with abundant water.</p>
<p><b>Panic Veldt Grass</b>  <i>Ehrharta erecta</i></p> 	<p>Grass  Perennial  All seasons</p>	<p>Seed (primary)   Rhizomes</p>	<p>Clean tools, equipment, clothes to  avoid introduction, spreading  Avoid introduction in contaminated  soils, sod, plants  With-hold water (Zone 1 or 1-2)  Mechanical – hand weed young  seedlings – be vigilant to  prevent seed-set</p>	<p>Post-emergent – spot  treatment with Roundup</p> <p>See UC IPC site for  current recommendations</p>	<p>Prolific seeder  Likes to grow in shade of  other plants – will crowd  out natives</p>
<p><b>Quack grass</b>  <i>Elytrigia repens</i></p> 	<p>Grass  Perennial  Warm seas</p>	<p>Stollons &amp;  rhizomes  (primary)   Seed</p>	<p>See Bermuda Grass</p>	<p>See Bermuda Grass</p>	

\* see UC IPM On-line site for current specific recommendations - [http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/weeds\\_intro.html](http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/weeds_intro.html)