
















Common Garden Weeds of Western Los Angeles County – Project SOUND




Name	Growth	Spreads by	Plant-specific Physical Control	Chemical Control*	Notes
Annual Weeds – flower & set seed in 1 growing season, then die					
<p>Clovers (annual) Burclovers <i>Medicago</i> species</p>  <p>Sweet Clovers <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>Common Purslane <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 & 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 & remove plants to avoid infestation</p>




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<p>Goosefoot, Nettle-leaf or Smooth <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>Groundsel, Common <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>Knotweed, common <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>Pineappleweed <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>Puncture Vine <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>Scarlet Pimpernel <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		May be toxic to pets if eaten




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<p>Sowthistle, Annual <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>Spotted Spurge <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 that is poisonous – wear gloves & avoid contact to eyes Prolific seed-producer This information also applies to other Spurges</p>
<p>Annual Bluegrass <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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Biennial Weeds – grow only in first year; flower & set seed the second year					
Marestail; Horseweed <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
Mustards <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
Short-lived Perennial Weeds – live 2-3 growing seasons in most garden situations; do not spread					
Cheeseweed <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>Cudweed, Weedy <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>Nightshades – <i>Solanum</i> spp. <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>Berries & foliage poisonous if eaten – wash hands</p> <p>Grows well in part-shade</p>
<p>Oxalis/ Creeping Woodsorrel <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 & shade</p>

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Crabgrass <i>Digitaria</i> species 	Herbaceous Perennial Warm seas	Seed Stem-rooting	Clean tools, equipment, clothes to avoid introduction, spreading Soil solarization prior to planting Mulch – deep Mechanical weeding to prevent seed production	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	
Perennial Weeds – live more than 2 growing seasons; flower & set seed over multiple years; most spread vegetatively					
Bermuda Buttercup <i>Oxalis pes-caprae</i> 	Herbaceous Perennial Cool seas.	Bulbs (primary)	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	Post-emergent – Round-up will kill top growth See UC IPC site for current recommendations	
Bindweed <i>Convolvulus arvensis</i> 	Herbaceous Perennial Warm seas	Seed Rhizomes	Avoid bringing into garden in contaminated soil, mulch, pots Landscape fabric (+/-) Mechanical – vigilant cultivation (hoe) or hand pulling	Pre-emergent - See UC IPC site for current recommendations Post-emergent - See UC IPC site for current recommendations	Difficult to control; Extensive, deep roots; Seeds very long-lived

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<p>Broadleaf Plantain <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>Clovers (perennial) White Clover – <i>Trifolium repens</i></p>  <p>Strawberry clover – <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>Dichondra <i>Dichondra micrantha</i> (<i>Dichondra repens</i>)</p> 	<p>Herbaceous Perennial Warm seas.</p>	<p>Stollons & 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>Bermuda Grass <i>Cynodon dactylon</i></p> 	<p>Grass Perennial Warm seas</p>	<p>Stollons & 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 & 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>Fountain Grass <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>Kikuyu Grass <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 & 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>Nutsedge <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>No rototilling or other turning of soil – will spread tubers</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 & areas with abundant water.</p>
<p>Panic Veldt Grass <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>Quack grass <i>Elytrigia repens</i></p> 	<p>Grass Perennial Warm seas</p>	<p>Stollons & 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