

Lawn Weed Identification Chart

How to Tell What's Actually Growing in Your Yard

Use the plant structure, leaf shape, flowers and growth habit to narrow down common lawn weeds before choosing a treatment.

BROADLEAF	Wide, flat leaves with visible veins. Examples include dandelion and clover.
GRASSY	Grass-like weeds that are true grasses, such as crabgrass, foxtail and nimblewill.
SEDGE	Grass-like plants with a distinctive triangular stem; nutsedge is the common lawn example.

COMMON BROADLEAF WEEDS



Dandelion

Taraxacum officinale

Basal rosette of deeply toothed leaves with a single yellow flower on a hollow stem. A deep taproot helps it regrow after incomplete removal.



White Clover

Trifolium repens

Low-growing plant with three rounded leaflets, often marked by a pale chevron, plus small white or pinkish globe-shaped flower clusters.



Broadleaf Plantain

Plantago major

Flat rosette of broad oval leaves with strong parallel veins. A narrow flower spike rises from the center. Common in compacted, high-traffic soil.



Common Chickweed

Stellaria media

Small oval leaves on sprawling stems, often rooting at nodes touching the soil. Tiny white star-shaped flowers are common in cool weather.



Henbit

Lamium amplexicaule

Square stems, scalloped leaves and small purple tubular flowers. A winter annual that commonly germinates in fall and flowers in early spring.



Ground Ivy (Creeping Charlie)

Glechoma hederacea

Rounded, scalloped leaves on square stems that root at nodes and creep along the soil. Often favors shaded, damp areas and has a minty scent when crushed.



Black Medic

Medicago lupulina

Small trifoliate, clover-like leaves with a tiny point on the center leaflet and small yellow flower clusters. Often occurs in compacted, low-fertility soil.



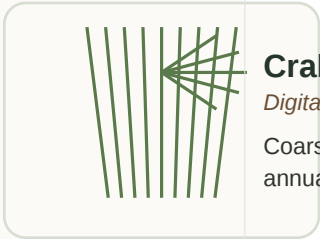
Spotted Spurge

Euphorbia maculata

Low mat of small oval leaves, often with a dark central spot. Broken stems release milky sap. It thrives in thin turf and bare patches during hot weather.

Identification tip: Appearance changes with season and maturity. Use more than one feature—leaf arrangement, stem shape, flower or seed head, and growth habit—before treating a weed.

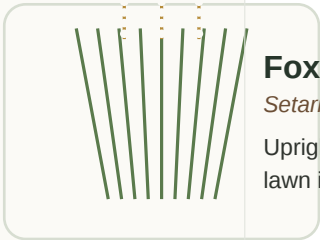
COMMON GRASSY WEEDS



Crabgrass

Digitaria sanguinalis

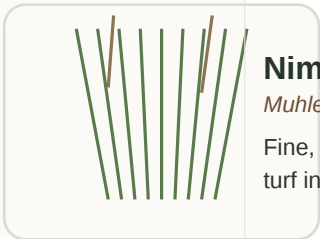
Coarse, light-green blades spread outward from a central point in a crab-like pattern. A summer annual that germinates as soil warms in spring.



Foxtail

Setaria spp.

Upright grass with a distinctive bristly, fox-tail-like seed head. Yellow and green foxtails are common lawn invaders, and early control is generally easier.

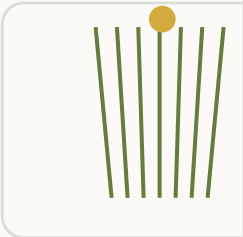


Nimblewill

Muhlenbergia schreberi

Fine, wiry perennial grass that forms circular patches. It often turns straw-brown before surrounding turf in fall and greens up later in spring.

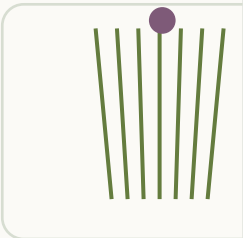
SEDGES



Yellow Nutsedge

Cyperus esculentus

Bright yellow-green, glossy blades grow rapidly above the turf. Underground tubers can survive after the visible plant is pulled, allowing regrowth.



Purple Nutsedge

Cyperus rotundus

Dark green, grass-like leaves with a characteristic purplish seed head. A perennial sedge associated with warm conditions and damp or poorly drained soil.

Using the Chart Before You Treat

1. Identify the category

First decide whether the plant is broadleaf, grassy, or a sedge. This quickly narrows the list of possible weeds.

2. Check the life cycle

Annual weeds complete their life cycle in one season, while perennial weeds can return year after year from established roots, rhizomes or tubers.

3. Look at the lawn conditions

Compaction, poor drainage, low mowing, shade and thin turf can create the conditions that let particular weeds repeatedly return.

4. Match treatment to the weed

A product designed for broadleaf weeds will not necessarily control grassy weeds or sedges. Always follow the product label and local requirements.

Important: The botanical drawings in this chart are simplified identification illustrations, not diagnostic photographs. Some weeds vary considerably by growth stage and region. When identification is uncertain, compare multiple characteristics or consult a local extension/lawn-care professional.