



green SIDE UP

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF COASTAL GREENERY LANDSCAPING

Serving Glynn, Camden, McIntosh, Wayne, Liberty, Bryan & Chatham Counties | JULY 2021



WEEDS!

If you are like me, you do not like to see unsightly “weeds” in your landscape!

A weed is defined as **“a wild plant growing where it is not wanted and in competition with cultivated plants.”** As Spring has passed and Summer is upon us, property owners have seen weeds emerging. Some common weeds in around the southeast Georgia area include sedges, crabgrass, dollar weed, and clover. Let’s take a moment to look at a few key points about weeds; where weeds come from, how to prevent weeds, and how to control (not eradicate) weeds.



Where Do Weeds Come From?

Being that a weed is a wild plant that has seeds of its own like all other plants, those seeds are the beginning of what we have titled a weed. Weed seeds are dispersed in numerous ways, but some of the most common are by wind, water, animals, and humans.

Properties of the Month: July

Winding River South



Village Green Golden Isles



Each property is selected by the Branch Manager according to the crew's monthly Quality Control report.

CONGRATULATIONS!

How Can We Prevent Weeds?

Weeds can be a relentless ongoing battle that you will NEVER win! Unfortunately weeds will never be eradicated and will forever continue to be a problem in our landscapes. Keeping that in mind, controlling measures need to be taken to "control" the weeds.



Pre-growing or preventative tactics that we recommend are:

- 1. Applying mulch to the planting beds.** Mulch will suffocate the weed seed, inhibit sunlight penetration, ultimately not allowing the seed to germinate or grow. Without mulch or even without the proper mulch depth, it is extremely difficult and practically impossible to control weeds in a plant bed.
- 2. Applying a pre-emergent herbicide for your turf** - pre-emergent herbicide must be properly applied at the right time of year to be effective. One application will not affect all types of weeds so 2 applications will need to be made. The first application needs to be when the soil temperature warms. A second application needs to be applied in the fall to winter months.

Upon sprouting and growth of weeds, tactics included:

- 1. Chemical control measures involve what we call post-emergent herbicides.** There are many post-emergent products on the market so do your homework to find the best one for your needs. These chemicals will NEVER be effective on rainy days or in winter months.
- 2. Mechanically removing weeds can be a time-consuming process.** Weeds can pop up over night and hand-pulling weeds can feel like a lot of work. The most important point for mechanical removal of weeds is to make sure the root is pulled along with the weed. One weed known for spreading roots is the dollar weed. Eliminating dollar weeds is all about destroying the root. There are several tools on the market that can assist you with hand pulling weeds.

Applying mulch at the correct depth and taking all preventative measures available including pre-emergent herbicides is highly recommended. If there was a technique to eliminate weeds, we would be the first to utilize it! Unfortunately, weeds will always be "weeds" and an ongoing battle that we will always be fighting!

Weeds Provide Valuable Information

Just what is a weed? Some say that a weed is any plant growing where it is not wanted. But let's take a look at weeds from some different angles. Maybe they aren't always the nuisance we think they are.

Many so-called weeds are attractive, with verdant foliage (lambsquarters, English daisy), colorful flowers (chicory, scarlet pimpernel, day lily and buttercup oxalis) or interesting growth patterns (plantain, willow herb and mallow). Others make lush groundcovers or turf (clover, common chickweed, bermudagrass).

More usefully, weeds can communicate **valuable information about the soil** in which they grow. A happy weed can indicate what other types of plants would do well in that area, or what improvement a soil might need.

Team Member of the Month: July



Kyler Widows

*Savannah,
Golden Isles & South*

This team member displays the company core values (Safety, Quality, Leadership, Relationships) in all that they do while working, have excellent attendance, and are constantly trying to improve themselves.

**CONGRATULATIONS
KYLER!**



If you see yellow nutsedge, dock or foxtails, the site probably has **soggy, swampy conditions** on occasion. In that situation, ornamental willows, Japanese and Siberian iris, liguria and dogwoods would do well, too.

Chicory, annual bluegrass, bindweed and chickweed indicate **compacted soil**. Planting a strong-rooted cover crop, such as white lupines or sweet clover, would help break up the soil and release nitrogen as well. Adding organic compost could also help aerate and lighten the soil.

Dandelions, sorrel, annual bluegrass and plantain prefer **acidic soil**, with pH below 7.0. Where those weeds do well, you can probably grow hydrangeas, blueberries, rhododendrons and azaleas, which also thrive in “sour” soil.

Alkaline soil, with a pH above 7.0, is hospitable to poppy, sagebrush and scarlet pimpernel, but also to choice ornamentals, such as lilac, lavender, dianthus and baby's breath.

Fertile soil supports chickweed and lambsquarters. The presence of redroot pigweed indicates an abundance of nitrogen. Red clover suggests the soil is high in potassium, while wild mustard signals phosphorus. Heavy-feeding vegetables — corn, broccoli, lettuce, melons, squash, tomatoes and peppers — should grow well in such rich soil.

Your soil may have poor fertility if you see daisies, shepherd's purse or black medic. Not to worry. Many perennials, including coreopsis, salvia and stachys, flower better in lean soil. Legumes, beets, carrots, peas, radishes and sage tolerate low-fertility soils as well.

Weeds can also improve the soil. Strong-rooted weeds like dock, dandelions and mallow push deeply into soil, opening air spaces and improving drainage. Shallow-rooted weeds like ground ivy, knotweed and purslane act as groundcover and help prevent erosion and soil crusting. Some weeds in the legume family, such as clover and black medic, add nitrogen that more desirable plants can use.

Weeds in the lawn can indicate what changes you need to make to grow healthy grass. Mow your lawn too low (shorter than one and one-half inches) and you encourage annual bluegrass, crabgrass and plantain. Low mowing can kill grass roots and invite the sunlight that stimulates weed sprouting. Mowing higher encourages grass to develop deeper, drought-resistant roots.

Water too much or too little and you may find clover, crabgrass or annual bluegrass in your lawn. For most turf grasses, **one deep weekly watering** (about one inch) in the early morning is best. Poor drainage invites ground ivy, knotweed and plantains to take hold, but once your lawn has established a deep root system, you won't need to water as much and drainage may be less of an issue.





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THE ROOTS OF OUR BUSINESS.**

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Relationships... the *roots* of our business.

Upgrading to Serve You Better Than Ever!

All year, every season, we are assessing new equipment and materials while reviewing processes and procedures to help keep our team efficient and on top of your service.

We are equipped and ready to handle all your needs.

Coastal Greenery is here to take the load of care and maintenance for your property off of your schedule and off of your mind. We want to make your property a haven for enjoyment and relaxation.

As always, we thank you for you allowing Coastal Greenery to serve you. We look forward to serving you and your property in all seasons!



Have a question or concern? We're here to help.

Contact the **COASTAL GREENERY** Team

(912) 261-8171 | COASTALGREENERY.COM    