



# Pesticide Free: Summer Tips for June, July & August

## Save water this summer

Cool season grasses naturally go dormant in summer heat, so you do have the option to not water at all! The grass will come back once the summer night and day temperatures cool down and a watering cycle is applied. If you do choose to water, the best time to water is early morning or early evening before and after the heat of the day.

## Weed control

Encouraging a weed-free lawn helps ensure that the blades of grass are not stressed when fighting to stay healthy. Selective weeds are beneficial for lawn and gardens. Clover and black medic add 'fixed nitrogen' to the soil naturally fertilizing while encouraging a thicker lawn.

Start weed control as early as possible in summer, when weeds are small and easier to eliminate. Keep up with weed control by using manual tools and diggers, corn gluten meal or organic/natural pesticides. See more below.

Problem	Solutions
Ants, earwigs, snails, slugs, cockroaches	Borax, boric acid solutions, diatomaceous earth, stout beer, rolled up newspaper, cardboard rolls, lure traps and baits
Aphids, leafhoppers, mites, whitefly, thrips, scale, wasps, yellow jackets	Insecticidal soap, fatty acids, sticky traps, sticky pheromone lure traps, pyrethrin, sulfur, beneficial insects, diatomaceous earth, dormant oil, canola and corn oils
Army tent worm, fall webworm caterpillars, spruce budworm, loopers	BTK, fatty acid soaps, pyrethrin
Black spot, powdery mildew, botrytis blight, leaf spot, gray mould	Wettable sulfur, copper bordo, lime sulphur, Serenade BS (Bacillus Subtillis)
Grubs/larvae/insects in lawn or garden	Beneficial nematodes, milky spore, fatty acid soaps
Mosquitos, gnats, flies	Garlic, dormant oil, pyrethrin, canola and corn oils, fly ribbon, pheromone lures, yellow sticky traps, bacillus israelensis, electronic zappers
Moss/algae in lawn or garden	Chelated liquid iron, fatty acid soaps
Rodents	Environmental live traps, ultrasonics, blood meal, bitter agents, corn meal
Weeds/grasses in sidewalks, patio stones, gravel areas	Acetic acid - horticultural vinegar, herbicidal soap
Weeds in lawn or garden	Chelated liquid iron, herbicidal fatty acids and soaps, acetic acid horticultural vinegar
Weed seeds	Corn gluten meal

## For more information:

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## Common lawn weeds

Use this chart to help identify weeds, rectify soil conditions to lessen weed populations and incorporate best control methods.

<p><b>Black medic</b>  <i>Description:</i> creeping, green, clover-like plant with small yellow flowers. Reproduces by seed. Can stay dormant in soil for years.</p>	<p><i>Control methods:</i> leave it, pull it manually or spot treatment with acetic acid water solutions, chelated liquid iron or corn gluten meal.</p> <p><i>Amend soil with:</i> compost and/or nitrogen soil amendments.</p>
<p><b>Common mallow upright, creeping mallow</b>  <i>Description:</i> low growing mat forming or upright. Small green leaves with small white to lilac flowers. Reproduces by seed.</p>	<p><i>Control methods:</i> remove all plant and root system by hand or use manual tools, apply acetic acid water solutions or herbicidal soaps.</p> <p><i>Amend soil with:</i> nitrogen, compost, compost tea, phosphorus rich amendments.</p>
<p><b>Crabgrass</b>  <i>Description:</i> green to purplish in summer. Crabgrass has a two to four prong seed pod. Reproduces by seed.</p>	<p><i>Control methods:</i> pull out manually in mid to late summer before seed drops, aeration of ground, vinegar water solutions, corn gluten meal.</p> <p><i>Amend soil with:</i> calcium, compost, compost tea.</p>
<p><b>Dandelion</b>  <i>Description:</i> separated lions green tooth leaves. Deep tap roots. Yellow flower. Reproduces by seed. First nectar of spring for bees.</p>	<p><i>Control methods:</i> remove all plant with root system by hand or use manual tools, apply acetic acid water solutions, chelated liquid iron, herbicidal soaps, corn gluten meal.</p> <p><i>Amend soil with:</i> calcium rich amendments, lime.</p>
<p><b>Plantain broadleaf and narrowleaf</b>  <i>Description:</i> Oval shaped or elongated shaped green leaves. Foliage grows in clumps close to ground. Tall seed stalks in centre of plant. Reproduces by seed.</p>	<p><i>Control methods:</i> manually dig out by hand or tool, acetic acid solution, chelated liquid iron, or herbicidal soaps.</p> <p><i>Amend soil with:</i> lime, compost, compost tea, sulfur.</p>
<p><b>Purslane</b>  <i>Description:</i> mat forming brownish red stems with shiny leaves. Also called wild portulaca. Has a nutty flavour and can be eaten. Reproduces by seed.</p>	<p><i>Control methods:</i> manually take out by hand or tool. Increase irrigation. Use acetic acid water solutions, corn gluten meal.</p> <p><i>Amend soil with:</i> calcium, nitrogen, compost, phosphorus rich amendments.</p>
<p><b>Quackgrass</b>  <i>Description:</i> clump forming with blue/green blades. Grows two to three feet tall. Often confused with crabgrass but has thicker stems. Reproduces by rhizome and seed.</p>	<p><i>Control methods:</i> pull out manually, frequently mow back new shoots in spring, aerate ground.</p> <p><i>Amend soil with:</i> compost tea, compost, calcium rich amendments.</p>
<p><b>Wood sorrel</b>  <i>Description:</i> small, bushy plant resembling clover. Leaf is green to brown in colour. Has small, yellow, five petalled flowers. Reproduces by seed. Edible.</p>	<p><i>Control methods:</i> leave it, acetic acid water solutions, remove manually or dig by tool. Herbicidal soaps, acetic acid solutions, corn gluten meal.</p> <p><i>Amend soil with:</i> nitrogen, calcium, compost, compost tea, phosphorus rich amendments.</p>
<p><b>White clover</b>  <i>Description:</i> nitrogen fixing, low growing with creeping mat formation. Groups of three dark green leaves with whitish veining. White and pink tinged flowers. Reproduces by seed and rhizome. Early spring nectar for bees.</p>	<p><i>Control methods:</i> let it grow, aerate, re-seed or overseed with lawn grass seed to choke out, acetic acid water solutions, corn gluten meal.</p> <p><i>Amend soil with:</i> added nitrogen, lime, compost.</p>