



Weed control material available for homeowners

These are over-the-counter chemicals found in local gardening stores. This list is not comprehensive and does not constitute an endorsement. Other products may be available.

FOLIAR HERBICIDES

These are liquid chemicals which are sprayed on the leaves. Some (e.g., glyphosate) will injure or kill almost any plant; care must be taken not to contact foliage of desirable plants. Some chemicals are more selective; for example, broadleaf selectives can be used to control dandelions or other broadleaf weeds in a grass turf.

Many liquid herbicides are available in a range of concentrations, from ready-to-use (usually less than 2% active ingredient) to highly concentrated (50% or more). Often, the concentrated form is the most economical way to purchase the active ingredient—but when using a concentrated herbicide, it is most important to observe safe mixing and correct application procedures.

ACTIVE INGREDIENT	EXAMPLE PRODUCTS	COMMENTS
Multi-purpose foliar herbicides		
diquat	Triple Strike Grass & Weed Killer	Fast knockdown, but kills only the above-ground part of the plant. Usually sold mixed with other compounds.
glyphosate	Roundup EasyGone Eliminator	Slow, but translocates to roots. Sold in various concentrations, from highly concentrated (50% glyphosate) to ready-to-use.
MSMA, CMA <i>monosodium methanearsonate calcium acid methanearsonate</i>	Crabgrass Killer	For control of crabgrass, nutsedge, and dallisgrass in turf. Also in mixtures for lawn weeds (e.g., Trimec). Can injure turf.
Broadleaf weeds only (relatively safe on grasses)		
2,4-D	All-in-one Weed Killer for Lawns Weed-B-Gon Max	Usually sold mixed with other compounds.
dicamba	Weed-B-Gon Max Triple Strike Grass & Weed Killer	Usually sold mixed with other compounds. Dicamba products may kill ornamentals if roots are in lawn.
MCPA <i>(4-chloro-2-methylphenoxy) acetic acid</i>	Spurge Power Weed-B-Gon Max Concentrate	Usually sold mixed with other compounds.
mecoprop (MCP)	Weed-B-Gon Max	Usually sold mixed with other compounds.
triclopyr <i>[(3,5,6-trichloro-2-pyridinyl)oxy]acetic acid</i>	Brush-B-Gon Poison Ivy Killer Brush Killer Plus Stump-out Stump & Vine Killer Weed-B-Gon Chickweed/ Clover/Oxalis Killer	Good for controlling woody plants. Various concentrations; also in mixtures for lawn weeds. Not for use on warm-season turfgrass species.
Grass weeds only		
fluazifop	Grass-B-Gon	Safe for broadleaf plants—can be used to control grasses in ornamental plantings. For perennial grasses, fluazifop is more effective. Neither will control annual bluegrass.
sethoxydim	Grass Getter	
Organic or low-impact herbicides		
fatty acids, potash soap	Safer Weed & Grass Killer	Kills contacted leaves and young seedlings. Very fast acting but will not kill roots.
acetic acid	household vinegar	

(continued on back)



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GRANULAR HERBICIDES FOR PREEMERGENCE WEED CONTROL IN LAWNS AND ORNAMENTALS

These chemicals are sprinkled on the ground before weeds emerge. Used according to the label, they won't injure existing turf or ornamental plants. The percent active ingredient is usually low and the material is granulated, making these materials easy and safe to handle. Active ingredients are often combined and are often formulated with fertilizer and sold as "weed & feed."

ACTIVE INGREDIENT	EXAMPLE PRODUCTS	COMMENTS
benefin	Amaze Grass & Weed Preventer	Controls germinating grasses and a few broadleaves.
dithiopyr	Supreme Green Crabgrass Preventer	Controls germinating grasses and broadleaves including oxalis, spurge, annual bluegrass.
oryzalin	Weed Impede; Weed Block	Controls germinating grasses and some broadleaves. For use on warm-season turfgrasses and tall fescue. Good for spurge.
pendimethalin	Turf Builder with Halts Halts Crabgrass Preventer	Controls germinating grasses and some broadleaves. For controlling crabgrass, spurge, annual bluegrass, clover.
trifluralin	Garden Weed Preventer	Useful for germinating oxalis, spurge, annual bluegrass.
2,4-D dicamba mecoprop (MCP)	various "Weed & Feed" formulations	Very short soil life—included in granular formulations for early postemergence control of broadleaf seedlings. Dicamba products may kill ornamentals if roots are in lawn.
isoxaben prodiamine	commercial applicator products	Limited availability for homeowners; may be available through commercial applicators. Useful for oxalis, spurge, clover, annual bluegrass.

LONG-TERM VEGETATION CONTROL

These chemicals are usually applied to the ground before plants emerge. They are intended for long-term, complete vegetation control in areas where no plants are wanted. Be extra careful with these ones!

ACTIVE INGREDIENT	EXAMPLE PRODUCTS	COMMENTS
imazapic	Roundup Extended Control	Sold as a mix with glyphosate, so can be used to control existing plants as well.
imazapyr	GroundClear	Sold as a mix with glyphosate, so can be used to control existing plants as well.
prometon	Total Kill	Very long soil life. Also in mixtures with diquat.