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Florida Lawn Weed Control



How do we control Florida Lawn Weeds? We begin by identifying the weeds into three groups: Broadleaf Weeds, Grass Weeds and Sedge Weeds. To control common Florida lawn weeds, use a combination of proper **lawn care practices**, **targeted chemical herbicides**, and **manual removal**.



DollarWeed (images UF/IFAS)

Broadleaves (Dollar Weed, Florida Pusley, Spanish Needles)

Broadleaf weeds have wide leaves with net-like veins that grow from a stem. They are generally the easiest to target without harming your turfgrass.

- **Cultural Control:** Reduce watering frequency. Dollarweed thrives in overwatered, saturated soil.
- **Chemical Control:** Apply a selective post-emergent broadleaf herbicide containing **Atrazine** (for St. Augustine and Centipede lawns) or **2,4-D** (for Zoysia and Bermuda lawns).
- **Prevention:** Spread a pre-emergent herbicide in early spring (February) and fall (October).

Dollar Weed ~ Torpedo Grass ~ Purple Sedge (images UF/IFAS)



Torpedo Grass (images UF/IFAS)

Grasses (Crabgrass, Torpedo Grass, Southern Sandbur)

Grassy weeds have long, thin leaf blades that grow from a round stem, often jointed.

- **Cultural Control:** Mow at the highest recommended height for your grass type to shade out weed seeds.
- **Chemical Control:** Use a selective post-emergent like **Quinclorac** for crabgrass in Zoysia or Bermuda. For St. Augustine lawns, post-emergent options are highly limited, and spot-treating with a non-selective herbicide like **Glyphosate** may be necessary.
- **Prevention: Pre-emergent herbicides** are critical. Apply **Dithiopyr** or **Prodiamine** in late winter before soil temperatures reach 55°F.



Nutsedge (images UF/IFAS)

Sedges (Purple and Yellow Nutsedge)

Sedges are not true grasses and have long, thin leaves that grow from a triangular stem, not jointed. Regular grass killers will not affect them.

- **Cultural Control:** Improve soil drainage and repair leaking irrigation heads, as sedges love wet areas. Be careful when hand-pulling mature nutsedges, as this triggers underground “nutlets” to sprout rapidly.
- **Chemical Control:** Apply a specialized sedge killer containing **Halosulfuron-methyl** or **Sulfentrazone**. These travel down to kill the underground tuber systems.

Remember, Weed identification is the first step in Lawn Weed Control. Please consult the University of Florida publications for specific recommendations:

1. ENH884 – [Weed Management Guide for Florida Lawns](#)
2. ENH1311 – [Florida Homeowner Herbicide Guide: Considerations, Applications, and Selection](#)

Visit the [UF/IFAS Lake County Extension Plant Clinic](#) for assistance in weed identification. Speak to Master Gardener Volunteers from Monday-Friday, 10 am to 2 pm. We are at 1951 Woodlea Road, Tavares, FL 32778, t: 352-343-4101.



by **Maria Quirico**

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