

Step 1
What's With My Lawn?
Sample local pests

Dandelion



Step 2
Monitor
Make regular inspections / counts

Counting weeds in your lawn may simply involve counting the number of weeds you step on over a specific distance.

Dandelions grow in areas with thin grass, low soil fertility and as a result of low mowing height.

Plantain



Plantain grows in areas of compact soil, low soil fertility and as a result of low mowing height.

White Grubs



White grubs are the larvae of insects such as June beetles. Adult beetles prefer laying their eggs in short grass.

Fairy Ring



Fungus that lives on organic matter and repels water, causing drought and resulting in turf death.

Over-watering and over-fertilizing cause thatch, this in turn contributes to fairy ring.

Step 3
Tolerance Level
Decide how many are tolerated

Decide how many weeds are tolerated.

You may decide that few weeds are acceptable in your highly visible front yard, but you may tolerate higher numbers in the back.

8-10 grubs per square foot (26-33 per square metre) can damage a lawn

May have to learn to live with them as there is no easy way to get rid of them.

Step 4
Cultural Action
Anything that produces healthy plants and prevents pest problems

- Overseed
- Topdress
- Water
- Aerate
- Fertilize properly
- Raise mower height if necessary
- Mow before weed goes to seed

- Raise mower height to 3 inches (8 cm)
- Water deeply but infrequently
- Dethatch if necessary
- Topdress
- Aerate

- Dethatch
- Aerate deeply
- Water deeply
- Fertilize correctly to minimize the differences in grass vigor between the ring and the rest of the lawn

- To prevent spread:
- avoid walking over area
 - clean mower after each use
 - pick mushrooms and destroy

Physical and Mechanical Action

Hand-pull the entire weed if possible. Moist soil makes weeding easier.

Cut off flower heads before seeds are dispersed.

Hand pick adult beetles or vacuum with a disposable bag

Remove and replace contaminated soil to a depth of 45cm (18") and re-sod or re-seed.

Biologicals & Lower-risk Control Products *

Try Corn Gluten Meal - a by-product of corn that prevents the germination of seeds, but does not control established weeds. Caution: Only use if grass seed has not been recently applied.

Try a Vinegar Spray Caution: Vinegar works by burning the plant. Spot spray only as it will burn grass also.

Certain parasitic wasps and flies can help. Bird houses attract natural predators like starlings and blackbirds.

Higher-risk Chemical Control Products

Resident must abide by any relevant regulations or restrictions.

Step 5
Evaluate

Keeping notes is helpful in determining effectiveness of methods.

* Keep in mind lower-risk products may adversely affect more than what you target. Always wear recommended personal protective equipment.