



The Plant Professionals

## Weed Control Plan

By James Gill

Patrol the landscape beds once a week. Spraying newly emerged weed *seedlings* weekly with Soil Mender Vinegar with Orange Oil can knock out 90% of your future weed problems, safely and quickly. Avoid spraying desirable vegetation, as it will cause aesthetic damage. Weeds emerging from underground *roots or stems* can be controlled with Roundup, if you avoid all drift to desirable vegetation, as Roundup will kill any plant it contacts.

Nutsedge can be controlled with Roundup, carefully applied to avoid any drift to desirable surrounding vegetation. Ortho Nutsedge Killer, Image, or Sedge Hammer can be used to kill nutgrass in beds where it is impossible to avoid contacting surrounding ornamentals, but always read the label (e.g. Image can be used around hawthorns and jasmine, but not around roses or viburnum). Two applications are often needed to control nutsedge.

Grassy weeds, such as Bermudagrass, can be killed in ornamental beds with Ortho Grass B Gon or Ornamec, without damage to shrubs or groundcovers.

Expect all products except Soil Mender Vinegar to take a week or more to show results, but be ready to reapply in two to four weeks if needed.

Amaze pre-emergent herbicide can help prevent new weeds if applied two weeks after planting, and raked or watered into the mulch immediately. Apply the proper amount for your square footage of bed area, and reapply in four to six months if continued control is desired. Do not use where you plan to plant begonias or bulbs.

Keep mulch refreshed, 2" to 3" thick over beds (but not against stems and trunks), to limit weed sprouting and growth.

Plain old hand-pulling of weeds still works (though a lot more work than the vinegar) and is most effective the day after a rain or thorough watering, as the soil needs to be soft enough to allow you to pull the root out with the top. But whatever method you choose, regular monitoring and action during the first year is key. Many weeds have the ability to produce and disperse hundreds of weed seeds in a matter of weeks, so don't let them get the drop on you. And call us for help or advice when you need us.