

FBMG Help Desk
Question of the Week

I sprayed for weeds and now my flowers are dead.
Help! What can I do?

Lets take a look...



ID the Plant



Know what you have and what it is.

Many plants have the same leave structure. An undesired plant may be in the same family as a desired plant.

Plains coreopsis (*Coreopsis tinctoria*) and Common yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*) both often desired ornamentals are in the same aster family as Common dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale* a frequently undesired weed in the lawn or garden. To spray one may very well kill them both.

Common dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale* often considered a weed is controlled by the same chemical that will kill both Venice mallow (*Hibiscus trionum* and Common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*)



Read the Label

Follow the directions.

Remember the adage the label is law.





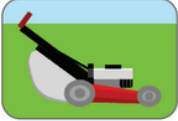


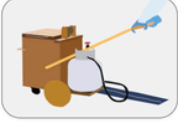



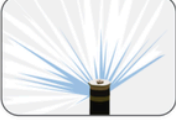


- *Verify you have the correct chemical.*
- *Read all directions*
- *Read all plants that it will have an effect on.*
- *Use it as directed.*
 - *More is not better*
 - *More frequently is not better*
- *Dispose of container properly*
- *Use the correct equipment*

Explore Alternatives

Look at other methods of weed control.

Alternatives to Herbicides for WEED MANAGEMENT

California School & Child Care IPM

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|--|---|--|
| <h3>SOIL HEALTH</h3>  <p>Cultivate your soil for growing grass, not weeds.</p> | <h3>OVERSEEDING</h3>  <p>Help grass outcompete weeds and repair patchy spots in lawns.</p> | <h3>MOWING</h3>  <p>Mow at the proper height to reduce weeds. Standard practice is to remove the top third of the grass height.</p> |
| <h3>STRING TRIMMER</h3>  <p>Clear weeds from hardscapes with a string trimmer.</p> | <h3>HEAT</h3>  <p>Kill weeds at the roots with heat using flame weeders, steam weeders, or foam steamers.</p> | <h3>CRACK SEALING</h3>  <p>Repair cracks in pavement to help prevent weed seeds from germinating.</p> |
| <h3>MULCH</h3>  <p>Maintain mulch at 3 to 5 inches to improve water conservation and weed management.</p> | <h3>HAND-PULLING</h3>  <p>Hand-pull weeds before they set seed to help reduce infestations.</p> | <h3>XERISCAPING</h3>  <p>Replace ornamental plants with native species that require less water and maintenance.</p> |
| <h3>IRRIGATION</h3>  <p>Prevent excess weed growth with proper irrigation timing and equipment.</p> | <h3>SOLARIZATION</h3>  <p>Kill weed seeds with soil solarization by cooking the soil under a plastic tarp.</p> | <h3>GOATS</h3>  <p>Hire goats to eat weeds and clear fields of unwanted vegetation.</p> |

Some of which include;

- *testing soil and maintaining soil health*
- *hand pull the weeds in question*
- *learn to love them and the pollinators they attract*
- *learn to embrace the advantage of not needing as much maintenance*
- *seal cracks in sidewalks*
- *practice proper irrigation*
- *always clean garden tools*

***Do you have questions
about your home
landscape and plants?***

***Contact the Fort Bend
Master Gardener Help Desk***

***Email:
FortBendmg@ag.tamu.edu
Phone:
281-341-7068***

***The Help Desk is manned
Monday thru Friday,
9am-Noon***

[http://www.clemson.edu/cafls/research/weeds/weed-id-bio/broadleaf-weeds-parent/index.html#:~:text=%20Photo%20credits%20Amaranth%20family%20\(Amaranthaceae\)%20Aster%20family%20\(Asteraceae\)%20Bedstraw](http://www.clemson.edu/cafls/research/weeds/weed-id-bio/broadleaf-weeds-parent/index.html#:~:text=%20Photo%20credits%20Amaranth%20family%20(Amaranthaceae)%20Aster%20family%20(Asteraceae)%20Bedstraw)

<https://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/WEEDS/ID/brdlfchar.html#:~:text=Identification:%20Characteristics%20of%20Broadleaf%20Plants.%20Broadleaf%20plants%20have%20relatively%20broad>

<https://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu/asset-external/herbicides-how-they-work-and-the-symptoms-they-cause/>

