

## Green Alternatives to Cosmetic Weed Control in Turf. Part 1.

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## What is a weed control product?

A weed control product, or **\*\* herbicide** \*\*, is a chemical used to **\*\* control** \*\*, **\*\* suppress** \*\*, or **\*\* inhibit** \*\* plants that are undesirable weeds in turf.



Herbicides are classified as either \* selective \* or \* non-selective \*. \* Selective \* herbicides, such as \* 2,4-D \*, will destroy only certain plants, such as Dandelions, with little or no injury to desirable turfgrasses. \* Non-selective \* herbicides will destroy weeds, as well as all surrounding vegetation to which they are applied. One example of a \* non-selective \* herbicide is \* Roundup \*. A large number of the green alternative products recommended by the environmental movement are highly destructive and \* non-selective \*.

Herbicides are also classified as either **\*\* pre-emergent \*\*** Or **\*\* post-emergent \*\***. **\*\* Post-emergent \*\*** herbicides, such as **\*\* 2,4-D \*\***, are highly effective in controlling weeds **after** they have emerged and developed. Conversely, **\*\* pre-emergent \*\*** herbicides must be applied to create a **\*\* herbicide barrier \*\* before** certain weeds emerge. They are **\*\* soil active \*\*** products that prevent the germination or early growth of seeds. The environmental movement has falsely given the public the impression that **\*\* pre-emergent \*\*** green alternative products are just as effective as **\*\* 2,4-D \*\***.



Finally, herbicides are classified as either **\*** foliar contact **\*** or **\*** systemic **\***. **\*** Contact **\*** herbicides may be non-selective, fast-acting and may provide a **\*** quick burn **\*** of the leaves. **\*** Contact **\*** herbicides may only **\*** suppress **\*** perennial weeds, which are able to re-grow from unaffected underground roots and stems.

Systemic » herbicides, such as « 2,4-D », are highly effective since they are « translocated » through the plant. They are capable of controlling perennial plants. They may be slower acting, but, ultimately, they are much more effective than contact herbicides.

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