

# Broadleaf Weeds

*"A weed is a poor creature whose virtues have not yet been discovered."*

—Emerson

## Weeds will invade lawns that are not healthy.

Soil compaction, low mowing height, poor watering habits, poor drainage and low soil fertility all reduce lawn health and encourage weed invasion.

A healthy lawn will have fewer weeds because its thick growth will shade and outcompete weeds.

## What are broadleaf weeds?

They are plants with "broad" leaves as opposed to the "narrow" leaf of a grass plant. Some broadleaf plants, such as buttercup and clover, grow



low to the ground and spread by runners and roots. Others, such as dandelion and shot weed, spread by prolific seed production. Some are perennial plants, while others are annuals.

Traditionally, many plants now called "weeds" were tolerated or even encouraged in lawns. In fact, clover was sown in lawns because it produces nitrogen in thin, infertile soils. Other weeds were tolerated because they filled in areas where turf did poorly. But as companies developed herbicides for home use, their marketing campaigns convinced many that the only good lawn is a weed-free lawn.

## What you can do


Create a healthy lawn! Healthy lawns will have fewer weeds. Here are some basic tips:

- ❑ Mow higher (1-2 inches), mow regularly, and leave the clippings.
- ❑ Water deeply, to moisten the whole root zone, but infrequently.

## What In Harmony can do

In Harmony's lawn care program focuses on improving soil health and structure to create more fertile lawns. This includes:

- ❑ Using "natural-organic" or "slow-release" fertilizers and micronutrients.
- ❑ Improving poor lawns with aeration and overseeding.

We work with our clients to select a proper mowing height and watering schedule to limit weed invasion and ensure they have the healthy, happy lawn they desire. 

## References

*The American Lawn.* Teyssoit, Georges, Ed.

*Down to Earth Natural Lawn Care.* Raymond, Dick.

*Perennial Weeds.* Dickey, P. Pro IPM: Integrated Pest Management. Solutions for the Landscaping Professional. 2000.

*Common-Sense Pest Control: Least-toxic Solutions for Your Home, Garden, Pets and Community.* Olkowski, W., Daar, S., and Olkowski, H. The Taunton Press, Newtown, Connecticut. 1996.

