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## Don't let it seed

### When to tackle weeds in your lawn

**W**eeds are the bane of lawn and garden enthusiasts. Weeds can spread rapidly and overrun

pristine grass, choking lawns and robbing them of their lush green look. In garden beds, weeds can steal water from thirsty plants, threaten-

ing their survival. A proactive approach that prevents weed growth is easier and less frustrating than dealing with weeds after they have sprouted.

That means addressing weeds before they release seeds, and not waiting so long that the damage is already done. According to the home and landscape experts with This Old House, spraying herbicide for weeds in June and July can address weeds before seeds are set. Tilling and installing a new lawn in late August or the beginning of September can help the lawn establish itself before the first frosts arrive, all the while avoiding weed growth. The weed control ex-

**Did you know?**

Weeding is a chore few gardeners relish. Weeds can seemingly pop up overnight. And when left to their own devices, weeds can quickly grow out of control. There are a few key tips to weeding that can make the process easier. First off, start with wet soil. Choose to weed after it rains, as wet soil makes it easier to pull the full weed, including the root, out of the ground. Removing the weed all the way down to its root prevents it from growing back. If there's no rain in the forecast, water the garden before attempting to remove weeds. If the ground is compacted and you're weeding in a pinch, at least remove the head of the weed to prevent seeds from spreading and starting new weed growth.

and also clear patches of unwanted grass so that garden beds can be mapped out. Pouring boiling water on weeds or pulling them by hand

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is more effective when roots are young and have not yet spread.

The UK-based company Lawnsmith also suggests a mid-spring weed killer application. This ensures that all weeds that have surfaced are addressed and that none are missed by weeding too early.

The Idaho-based Town & Country Gardens suggests lawn and garden enthusiasts wait to tackle weeds. By waiting and applying weed treatments in the fall, when dandelions and other weeds are absorbing food and nutrients in larger quantities to survive winter, homeowners can rid their lawns and gardens of weeds efficiently.

Weeds are a nuisance and an eyesore in lawns and gardens. Choosing the right time to treat them can ensure they don't adversely affect lush landscapes and thriving gardens.

perts at Roundup also suggest a springtime application of weed killer if this is the desired route. Early treatment can prevent weed roots from spreading too far in the soil, which can reduce the chances that weed remnants will be left behind to grow at a later time.

Homeowners with small lawns or gardens or those who prefer hand-weeding or using nonchemical ways to treat weeds must take steps to address the weeds early. Gardeners can try suffocating weeds by placing wood, blocks or plastic over them. Wet newspaper used as mulch can block weed formation

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