

What is a weed?

A weed is any plant growing where it is not wanted or in competition with crops. The major types of weeds include broadleaves, grasses, and sedges. Life cycle duration can vary from one year to many years. Knowing the type of weed may help you determine their spread, the damage they cause, and the best form of control.



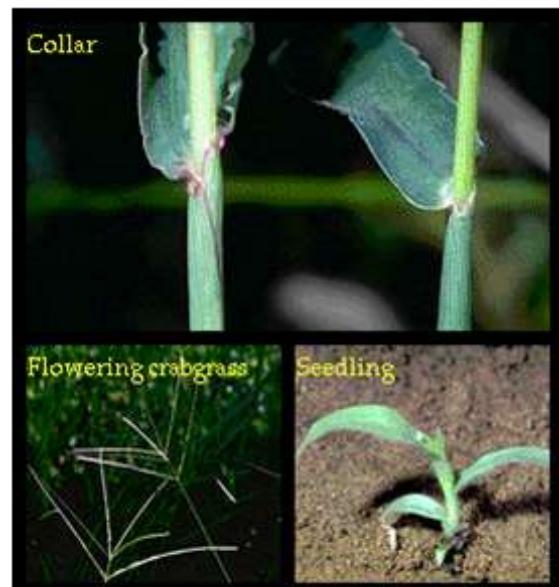
Broadleaf (UC IPM)

Why are weeds important?

Weeds lower crop yield and quality by competing with crops for nutrients, light, and water. They may also host harmful insects and diseases or release damaging (allelopathic) substances into the soil.

What can you do to control weeds?

Like crops, weeds need water, nutrients, and light to grow. The goal of weed management is to reduce weeds' access to these resources. Weed control early in the season, when crops are most sensitive, is critical for good crop yield. Control later in the season reduces weed seed production. This helps prevent future weeds in future crops.

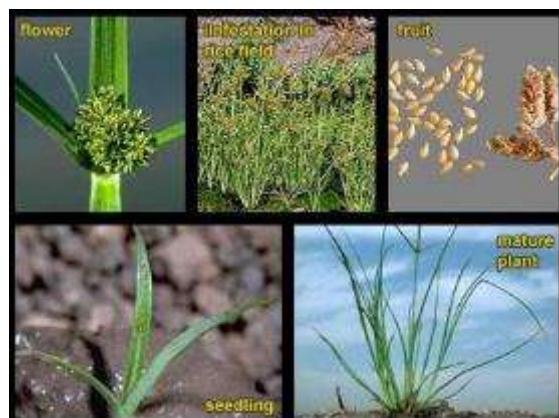


Grass (UC IPM)

Effective weed management may include a variety of techniques:

1. Irrigation management
2. Soil solarization
3. Prevention of weed seed production
4. Reduce light availability to weeds
5. Hand or mechanized weeding (cultivation)
6. Use of mulches
7. Proper and targeted use of herbicides

For more information on these methods see the Weed Management Fact Sheet.



Sedge (UC IPM)