



SEASONAL VARIATION IN TURF WEED POPULATIONS

Mainscape is committed to maintaining your landscape at the highest level. Part of that commitment is proactive education about challenges in the landscape and communicating expectations. This bulletin is intended to explain the dynamics of seasonal weed populations and how they are managed.

Keeping weeds suppressed in lawns is a continuous process in which we take great pride. The soil contains thousands of weed seeds, many of which can germinate year round as long as temperatures are above freezing. Others germinate seasonally, typically going into spring or fall. For this reason, an influx of turf weeds typically occurs twice per year in Florida, mid-February through March and again from mid-August through September.

During warm, wet weather products used to manage weeds act quickly due to increased physiological uptake by plant leaves and roots. Grass is also actively growing under these conditions and forms a dense stand of turf that outcompetes weeds for water and nutrients and crowds them out. In addition to weed treatment and grass competition, weekly mowing in warmer months helps keep weed populations down because it prevents many of them from going to seed and spreading. As a result, weed populations during summer months are usually lower.

When weather is cool or excessively dry, products used against weeds act more slowly because they are not taken up as quickly, therefore additional treatments are often necessary. Furthermore, during winter months mowing is reduced to every two weeks as the growth of grass slows down. Weeds often grow more quickly than grass at this time and become more noticeable as they grow above the height of the turf and may produce seeds that can increase weed populations.

Due to these challenges, increased weed populations during certain times of the year are natural and more recognized. We are working diligently to keep lawns as weed free as possible and appreciate your patience during this challenging time of year.