



HOW TO PREVENT WEEDS for a Truly Green Lawn

Tips for River Star Homes

Prevent Weeds Before They Come Up

- ☼ **Select the right grass for your lawn;** warm season grasses such as Bermuda and St. Augustine are best for our area.
- ☼ **Mow high to shade out weeds** — 2" for Bermuda, 3-4" for St. Augustine.
- ☼ **Water deeply but infrequently.** Grass needs about 1" of water each week while growing. Over- or under-watering creates an environment that favors weeds.
- ☼ **Aerate your lawn** to reduce soil compaction and help grass grow.
- ☼ **Apply corn gluten** at a rate of 10 lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft. of lawn in mid-September and again in spring when the Forsythia begin to bloom. Corn gluten prevents seeds from growing into plants, so don't use it if you'll be planting grass seed within a few weeks.



Removing Weeds After They Come Up

- ☼ **Hand pick weeds.** Make sure to remove the entire plant, including the roots, and dispose of it in the trash — many weeds can regrow from parts or seeds.

- ☼ **Spray leaves of weeds with white or horticultural vinegar;** take care to avoid spraying other plants.
- ☼ **Use an organic weed control product** such as Burn Out. These products usually contain clove oil and/or citric acid to kill weeds.



Reading the Leaves: Weeds are often a symptom of underlying problems with your soil. Below are some common weeds and what they can tell you about your soil.

Plant	Where it Grows	Solutions
Chickweed 	Acidic, compact soils; prefers shade	Address pH with lime*, aerate and apply compost
Crabgrass 	Compacted soils along driveways and sidewalks	Aerate and apply corn gluten in spring
Dandelion 	Wet, acidic soils; usually means grass is mowed too low	Mow high, avoid overwatering, hand weed, and address low pH
Plantain 	Compacted, wet soils	Aerate soil, avoid overwatering, hand weed

*Test your soil before applying any amendments, including lime, to your yard.