



CHRISTENSEN'S PLANT CENTER

Wholesale Supplier To Landscape Professionals

Weed Suppression

Here is a different kind of topic for landscapers who do bed, yard, and property maintenance. Please notice the title is Weed Suppression, not Weed Eradication!

Many people think I'm crazy when they hear I attempt to keep 9+ acres of landscaped, forested, and meadow areas free of Dandelions and Garlic Mustard. (Not to mention Crab Grass) The secret is weed seed suppression. If you just spray these boogers, the seed heads will still cast seeds as the plant sickens and dies. Garlic mustard must be removed by the roots, by hand, but if you can remove 95% of the offending plants, your job is going to get easier with each passing year.



With Dandelions, the key is removing all buds, flowers, and seed heads, and **then** spraying with a broad leaf herbicide. Once again, if you can stop 90-95% of localized seed heads, the overall populations will certainly be on a major downward trend. An added benefit here is that encouraging beneficial plants and flowers leaves less open space to start noxious weeds. This will also reduce your weeding effort.

The big pay-off for me is woodland areas stuffed with wild Geraniums, Solomon's Seal, and False Solomon's Seal, among many others. Treflan is still a must in bed areas.

Early Spring is THE most important time to knock down weed seed numbers. With all the rain we've been having, just imagine the weed seed germination rate this year!



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