

When it rains in the Valley, plants receive much-needed water and our water bills get a break, but rain can also help unattractive weeds grow. For a small number of weeds, manually pulling them out is the most effective method for removal. Just make sure you remove the roots entirely as weeds can regrow from their root system. To manage weeds over a large area, herbicides are the most effective tools available. There are two categories: pre-emergent and post-emergent.



Pre-emergent Herbicides

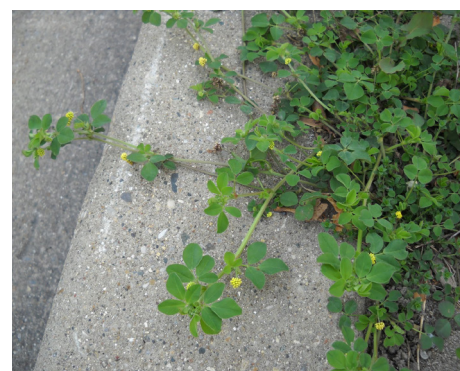
These herbicides are designed to prevent seeds from germinating in the soil. That means that they are most effective when applied during rainy seasons. In Arizona, that means either monsoon season (usually June through August) or during winter rains (October through January).

Post-emergent Herbicides for Winter Weeds

Post-emergent herbicides target weeds that have germinated and are visible in the landscape. Use an herbicide containing Diquat for winter weeds, and always follow the instructions on the chosen product carefully.

Post-emergent Herbicides for Summer Weeds

Spring and summer are the best times to use a systemic weed control product. Be careful to avoid plants or turf as these products cannot differentiate between wanted plants and unwanted weeds. The product is absorbed through the leaves and travels through the plant, so this process is not instantaneous. Wait to remove the plant so that the herbicide can reach the weed's roots.



Bur Clover is one type of weed that pops up during the winter months



Dandelions emerge when the weather warms and begin dispersing seeds shortly after



In the area to the left, pre-emergent was used at the proper time to prevent germination; in the area to the right, no pre-emergent was used

