

Brightman's Best Sustainable Weeding Tips

If you prefer using products that are compatible with exposures to children, pets, and surface waterways you might try some of these weeding shortcuts.



The season is here! The work begins, so gird your loins!!

To be perfectly honest with you, there is no substitute for mechanical weeding, if it is done properly. The most effective way to get rid of the living plant is accomplished when you pull your weeds before they flower and go to seed, capturing the root mass with it. What is less talked about is the fact that new seeds are always invading the places you do not want weeds, carried by the wind, birds, and general activity in the area. This makes the job relentless. Tools like herbicides are helpful when you do not have the time to stay on top of the situation, or if the area you need to keep weed free is too great for the time and energy you have.

Springtime is the best time to get rid of emerging weeds that you were not able to kill while weakened in the fall season. To reduce your workload later in the season, spread corn gluten meal as a pre-emergent growth retardant. This will retard the germination of weed seeds and errant grass seeds in your beds, gravel driveways and walkways. The corn gluten meal also provides beneficial nitrogen to your perennials already in the bed.

If those plants have already germinated, and begin to show their cheerful green, begin your spraying regimen with Brightman's Best Weed and Grass Killer, or use your flame burner to burn back and kill the emerging plants before they get to flower. Brightman's Best works for you whenever the unwanted plants are in a growth phase, and awake. When the temperature is very low and sun is scarce, too low for the plant to grow, the weeds and errant grasses are slow to take up Brightman's Best. It will begin to work again as the sun comes out, and the weather warms. If you want to get after them anyway, you might try burning them while they are dormant. Keep in mind that it is possible that they might regenerate once they wake up.

When you spray your weeds with Brightman's Best while the plants are awake, or as they are waking up, you will see wilt and eventual browning. Eventually, as the plants continue to take in the Brightman's Best product, you will see the new seed and annual seed weeds die.

Perennial weeds will attempt to come back, especially if they are well established. If you see green come up through the brown, give the weed another shot of Brightman's Best. This might happen about a week after you sprayed the first time. If the weeds are well-established dandelion*, or other similarly hardy species, you might even need to spray one more time a week after the first application. Should the perennial weed come back, you will find that having used Brightman's Best previously on the weed, if you choose to remove by hand it becomes much easier with the root intact.

Tender vines as they emerge can benefit from an application or three of Brightman's Best, although this technique is best done in the fall. Spray the leaves as they emerge. Once they brown and "crinkle", cut the vine back. As the vine begins to reshoot, spray it again. You will need to stay after this. You can cover the site after the first cut back with an impermeable layer of newspaper, or even old carpeting, but it might find a new route to reemerge away from that site in the spring. If you can manage this technique, you might have success if the vine is not very old. If it is, you might want to try this in the fall, when the energy in the plant is low enough to make it more susceptible to both the Brightman's Best as well as suffocation.

Let us know your favorite weeding techniques, and we will share your tip identified with your name, or anonymously, as you wish. Use the Contact page.

** The dandelion is an interesting plant or weed, if you don't treasure them. As soon as they feel threat and as the leaves begin to brown, the dandelion sends up its flower for germination, and then its seed pod. It is the natural reaction by all living things to protect the continuation of the species. Get to be as smart as the weeds. Be sure to limit the proliferation of the spread of seed. Either spray again, burn, or pull the flower before it germinates, and destroy any emerging seed pods before they release seeds.*



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Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: Can Brightman's Best be used to kill unwanted broadleaf weeds in lawns without killing grass?

A: No. Brightman's Best is what is called a broad spectrum herbicide. It will kill herbaceous (non-woody) plants, including grasses, wherever sprayed. However, if you spot spray the broadleaf weed or crabgrass within the lawn, as the weed dies the stronger lawn grass takes up the space.

Q: What is a systemic herbicide?

A: A systemic is a product that not only addresses the top growth, but also has ingredients that move to the root to interrupt the plants ability to take in food. Eventually, the whole plant dies. This is especially important for perennial weeds.

Some herbicides only kill the top growth of a weed. It only kills what grows above the ground. The root is left untouched. Sometimes this is enough; if a weed is young or weak the root cannot survive without the leaves.

Q: What are herbaceous plants?

A: Also commonly call herbs, plants that do not have woody stems, and all the leaves and top growth die to the ground at the end of its season.

Q: Why is Brightman's Best not EPA registered?

A: There is a category of herbicide in the EPA code called FIFRA 25b. Herbicides made from active and inert ingredients listed under this category, at concentrations considered "generally regarded as safe," are allowed to be sold without USEPA pesticide registration. States require the registration of these products, and can deny registration if the restrictions are not observed.

Q: How can Brightman's Best kill plants but not people and pets?

A: Brightman's Best is made from food grade ingredients that happen to interfere in the metabolism of the weed plant when it comes in contact with the leaves, but not harmful in the concentrations used to affect the health of mammals. If used as directed, it will not have a negative effect on birds or insects either.

Q: Why can you reenter a Brightman's Best sprayed area right after being sprayed?

Brightman's Best should be sprayed to coat the leaves of the weed. When it dries, the product leaves a light coating of a food grade citrus salt that will not harm people or pets that might brush against it.

Q: Do you need to saturate the ground to kill the weed root?

A: No. In fact it a waste of product, because the killing effects only work when the plant leaves take up the formula. The action works with the plant's method of taking up its natural air, food, and water supplies to survive.

