

Table 1 – Weed Indicators of Stress Conditions and Control Options

COMMON NAME	TYPE OF WEED	STRESS CONDITIONS INDICATED	CONTROL OPTIONS
Annual bluegrass	Cool season annual	Low nutrients, soil compaction causing poor drainage and low mowing	Control by raising mowing height, collect lawn clippings when seed heads are present, dig out clumps
Black medic	Cool season annual	Drought, low nutrients but high phosphorus	Control by pulling, digging the shallow taproot, water deeply 6 to 8 inches
Buttercup	Cool season perennial	Poor drainage, shade	Control by pulling and digging, aerate-topdress-overseed, if too shady plant a ground cover
Chickweed	Cool season annual	Low nitrogen, compacted soils causing poor drainage	Control by cutting and pulling before seeds form
Clover	Cool season perennial	Low nutrients, drought, compacted soils	Control by cutting and pulling in the spring, aerate-topdress-overseed, fertilize consistently
Crabgrass	Warm season annual	Soil compaction, low nutrients, drought, thin grass, hotspots	Raise mowing height, fertilize and water consistently-see text for details
Dandelions	Cool season perennial	Thin grass, low mowing, low nutrients, drought	Control by pulling in early spring and while in flower, water deeply, raise mowing height and fertilize consistently
False dandelions	Cool season perennial	Thin grass, low mowing, low nutrients, drought	Control by pulling in early spring and while in flower, water deeply, raise mowing height and fertilize consistently
English daises	Cool season perennial	Low nutrients, low pH, compacted soils causing poor drainage	Control by pulling and digging out, add dolomite limestone, aerate-topdress-overseed and fertilize consistently
Henbit	Cool season annual	Poor drainage, thin or new grass	Shallow-rooted so pulling works well, often troublesome in newly seeded lawns, aerate-topdress-overseed
Moss	Cool season perennial	Low nutrients, compacted soils causing poor drainage, low pH, heavy shade	Thatch-topdress-overseed, water and fertilize consistently, if too shady replace with a ground cover
Plaintain	Cool season perennial	Thin grass, low nutrients, low mowing	Mow and collect clippings to remove seed heads, fertilize consistently, aerate-topdress-overseed and dig out

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Prostrate knotweed	Cool season annual	Compacted soils, with heavy foot traffic	Control by pulling, cutting in summer, aerate-topdress-overseed
Purslane	Warm season annual	Excessive fertilizers, poor drainage, shade, thin grass	Pull or hoe, water deeply but infrequently
Red sorrel	Cool season perennial	Poor drainage	Control by pulling, fertilize consistently, aerate-topdress-overseed
Speedwell (Veronica)	Cool season perennial	Low nutrients, poor drainage, thatch and thin grass	Fertilize lawn consistently, aerate-topdress-overseed, if too shady replace with a ground cover
Thistles	Cool season perennial	Low nutrients, drought, heavy clay soils	Repeatedly pull weeds with a weed popper and remove as much taproot as possible, fertilize consistently