

BUILD A USEFUL WEED-IDENTIFICATION RECORD

These groups narrow the search. They are not a complete identification key, and one visible feature should not be treated as proof of a species.

Photographs and observations that help distinguish look-alikes

Starting group	Examples to compare	Details worth recording
Broadleaf weeds	Dandelion and clover are familiar examples.	Leaf arrangement and margins, flowers if present, and whether growth forms a rosette or spreads.
Grassy weeds	Crabgrass and goosegrass can be confused with other coarse grasses.	Leaf-to-stem junction, hairs, flattened or rounded stems, growth habit and any seedhead.
Sedges and grasslike plants	Nutsedges can resemble fast-growing grass.	Stem cross-section, leaf arrangement and underground structures when safely accessible.
Desirable turf in the wrong place	A lawn grass spreading into a different lawn or bed may be unwanted.	Compare with neighboring turf; location and intended use affect whether a plant is considered a weed.

A patch of dead or discolored grass is not itself a weed identification. Use the lawn diagnosis guide when the problem is lost turf rather than a distinct unwanted plant.

YOUR FIELD RECORD

Date, state and growing conditions

Whole-plant and detail photographs

Leaf, stem and growth observations

Provisional identification and reference

Confirmed lawn grass and intended next step

Use the full guide and current local advice before treatment. Print and write, or save a copy in a PDF app that supports form fields. Entries stay in your file; this worksheet does not submit them.

