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Do Weeds Pose A Threat In The Fall?

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A weekly question/answer column

Do Weeds Pose A Threat In The Fall?

Bill Varga answers:*

A glance at the dying weeds in your yard may be a welcome sight, but don't let your guard down they're just playing dead. These perennial weeds are actually busy storing energy to get them safely through the winter.

- Now is the best time to control weeds in your yard and garden.
- Apply 2,4-D for common lawn weeds such as Bindweed (morningglory), curly dock, dandelion, mallow, puncture vine and many other broad-leaved weeds. 2,4-D will not harm grasses.
- Use caution when spraying. Do not spray when there is any breeze or if the temperature exceeds 80 degrees. 2,4-D can drift to desirable plant material and cause damage.
- Be responsible. For example, hand pulling weeds, along with using herbicide sprays, combines a system of Integrated Pest Management (weed, insect and disease control) that is good for the environment and pocket book. Combine these methods as much as possible.

* Bill Varga is Utah State University Extension Horticulturist