

# WEED IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

**White clover** is a winter perennial which spreads by above ground runners. The plant has compound leaves divided into three leaflets which are all joined at a central point. It adapts to many soils but tends to grow best in moist soils. It flowers from May through September.



**Thistle** is a perennial weed that has soft green, spear-like leaves with sharp barbs on them and is a difficult weed to control. It grows on an extensive root system that can go quite deep into the ground and the plant can grow back from even a small piece of root.



**Purslane** is a summer annual with thick and waxy leaves that usually alternate, with a cluster at the tip. Stems are thick, reddish in color, and branch out from a central point. It flowers from May to November and spreads by seeds, which germinate in the spring, or by stem fragments.



**Oxalis**, is a summer annual, that can be perennial in some areas. Sometimes mistaken for clover when not in flower, the leaves differ from clover in that they are distinctly heart shaped. It is yellow with five petals and occurs in clusters. It spreads by seeds which burst from the pods at maturity and may be scattered several feet.



**Yellow nutsedge** has a triangular stem with waxy grass-like leaves and an upright growth habit. Sedges are not grass plants, but may be mistaken for such. A nutsedge tuber can produce 1,900 plants and 7,000 new tubers in a single growing season. Nutsedge does well where soil has poor drainage.



**Dandelion** is a winter perennial with leaves that form in a rosette. The flowers are yellow and are individual stems. The yellow flower will turn to a white globular puffball. The seeds are disseminated by wind. Dandelions spread by both seed and stems from the root.



**Bluegrass** is a small tufted, yellow-green winter annual. The leaf blades are smooth on both surfaces, with two distinct, clear lines. The leaf tips are long and slightly pointed. It is light green to whitish with spikelets that are arranged on branches, in dense to open flower clusters.



**Crabgrass** is a summer annual that germinates when soil temperatures reach a consistent 55° and is generally killed at the first frost. It is light green in color and coarse bladed. It grows especially well in thin lawns that do not get enough water, and are poorly drained.



**Chickweed** is a winter annual which grows in moist shaded areas. The leaves are small, smooth and pointed at the tip. Chickweed adapts well to different mowing heights and spreads by seed. The flowers of common chickweed are white, small and star like with 5

