

Tree Nursery Weed Control

Weeds compete with growing nursery trees for nutrients, water, and space. Weed growth in nurseries greatly reduces tree growth. See the Weed Management Fact Sheet and Weeds Info Sheet for more information on problems caused by weeds.

Establish and maintain a weed-free nursery

1. Prevent weed growth before planting.
 - a. Seek out land with no history of weed problems.
 - b. Remove old plant debris.
 - c. Use pre-plant irrigation, soil solarization, or cultivation to kill remaining weeds and weed seeds. See the weed management fact sheet for more information on these methods.
2. Control weed growth after planting.
 - a. Use mulches to control weed growth. See the Mulches for Weed Control Fact Sheet for more information.
 - b. Check the nursery frequently for weeds and remove them when they are small. Established weeds have already used nutrients and water that could have helped the growing trees.
 - c. If using herbicides, only use pre-emergence herbicides such as Surflan. When using agrochemicals always follow the safety instructions of the manufacturer.
 - d. Never use contact herbicides, which will kill or damage trees.



Remove weeds frequently. Once established, weeds become very difficult to control.



Weeds can easily overgrow nursery trees.