

The background is a solid green color. On the left side, there is a large, faint, circular seal of the City of Albuquerque. The seal features a central emblem with a sun, a mountain, and a river, surrounded by the text "CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE" at the top and "NEW MEXICO" at the bottom. In the upper right quadrant, several dandelion seeds are shown in flight, appearing to blow away from the center. The main title text is centered horizontally in the upper half of the page.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

A detailed illustration of a dandelion plant is positioned in the lower-left corner of the white rectangular area. The plant has several bright yellow flowers in various stages of bloom, green leaves with serrated edges, and a long, thin stem with a seed head. The illustration is rendered in a clean, stylized manner with soft shading.

WEED
IDENTIFICATION
HANDBOOK

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RICHARD J. BERRY, MAYOR

Introduction

This handbook identifies the characteristics of weeds that are common in the City of Albuquerque. A weed is all rank, noxious, poisonous, harmful, and unhealthful vegetation that is deleterious to health.

Weeds usually cover four stages: seedling, vegetative, flowering and maturity.

The timing and treatment depends on the characteristics of the target species, but is recommended as quickly as possible.

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PIGWEEED

(Amaranthus Retroflexus)

June - October / Summer Annual

Pigweed is a summer annual and reproduces from seed clusters at top of stalk. Cut pigweed with weed eater or shovel before it seeds.

After seeding, cut with shovel to prevent spreading of seeds.





RUSSIAN THISTLE

(Salsola Pestifer)

June - October / Summer Annual

Russian Thistle grows 1 to 3 feet tall and has a round shape. This weed is also called the “Tumbleweed” and is famous for its tumbling affect when the weed has dried. Russian Thistle germinates in the end of summer. Each plant produces in excess of 10,000 seeds. Cut before spine starts to dry and harden to prevent spreading of seeds.

RAGWEED



(*Ambrosia* Spp.)

June-October / Summer Annual

Leaves have strong smell when crushed and are lacy. Shallow rooted, stems are rough and branching. Seed leaves have a purple underside and purple splotches around the edge of leaf.



LAMBSQUARTER

(*Kenopodium* Spp.)

June – September / Summer Annual

Lambsquarter reproduces from small black sticky seeds. The seeds are spread by sticking animals. Cut this weed before it grows its seeds. Avoid contact with seeds to prevent spreading.

KOCHIA



(*Kochia Scoparia*)

June - October / Summer Annual

Kochia reproduces by seeds that emerge in early spring and throughout the weed season. The bushy plant grows 1 to 7 ft tall and have taproots. The plant is dark green when young and turns red as it matures. Small, green flowers and seeds are produced in narrow heads, pointed and attached directly to the stems. In the fall, the plants often break away from the roots and tumble over the ground, scattering the seeds.



LONDON ROCKET

(*Sisymbrium Irio*)

November - March / Winter Annual

One of the first weeds to appear in the growing season and produces seeds from its stalk below the flowers. Cut before it flowers with a weed-eater or shovel or with a shovel after it flowers to prevent spreading of seeds.



FLIX WEED

(*Descurainia Sophia*)

November - March / Winter Annual

Flix Weed reproduces by seed in April. Cut early to prevent the spreading of the seeds. Produces elongated seeds below the flower. Cut with shovel or weed-eater before seeding. After seeding cut Flix Weed with a shovel.

TANSY MUSTARD

(*Descurainia Pinnata*)

November - February / Winter Annual

One of the first weed to appear in the growing season and produces seeds from its stalk below the flowers. Cut before it flowers with a weed-eater or shovel or with a shovel after it flowers to prevent spreading of seeds.



SPURGE



(*Euphorbia serpens*)

March - August / Spring/Summer Annual

This weed is commonly known as Creeping Spurge. The stems are short stocks and have leaves growing on opposite ends of the stem. Tiny, white flowers are typically grouped along the stem or at the stem tips. It germinates in April and May and grows low across the ground. Cut this plant at the crown just below the ground to prevent spreading.



SILVERLEAF NIGHTSHADE

(*Solanum Elaeagnifolium*)

June - October / Summer Annual

Silverleaf Nightshade reproduces by seed or from anyplace along the root system. Has a tap root that extends deep into the ground. Cut with shovel and avoid bursting cherries. Cut as far below ground as possible.

PUNCTURE VINE



(*Tribulus Terrestris*)

May - October / Summer Annual

Puncture Vine is commonly known as the “Goathead” weed because of its prickly seeds that are often tracked in the home under shoes or by pets. Puncture Vine will start growing in May but will not produce seeds until the flower has bloomed, which usually takes around 2 -3 weeks. The plant can survive until the first winter freeze.



FIELD BIND WEED

(*Convolvulus Arvensis*)
June - August / Summer Annual

Field Bind Weed reproduces by seed or root stalk. Roots can grow up to 20 to 30 feet in the ground and are common in areas converted from agricultural land. The pink and white flowers are from the morning glory family and have arrow shaped leaves. Cut Bind Weed early and often.

PURSLANE

GARDEN PURSLANE
HORSE PURSLANE
WESTERN PURSLANE



June-October / Summer Annual

These weeds grow low across the ground. The leaves are opposite of each other and are typically $\frac{1}{4}$ of inch long. Leaves are thick, succulent and fleshy. This weed produces tiny yellow flowers that bloom with sunlight. The stems can grow 4 to 20 inches long and are a purplish - red color. Cut this plant at the crown below the ground.

HOARY CRESS

(*Lepidium Draba*)

Spring & Summer - Perennial

Also known as “White Top,” is deeply rooted and an invasive mustard perennial. Stems may grow up to two feet in height. The weed produces grayish-green leaves that are shaped like an arrowhead. Hoary Cress has numerous white flowers with a flat top appearance which draws the nickname of White Top. Two small, flat, reddish-brown seeds are contained in each of the heart shaped seed pods. The deep and creeping rootstalks make this weed difficult to control and the spread of root pieces allows the start of new plants.



YELLOW FOXTAIL

(*Setaria Glauca*)

Summer Annual or Biennial

Also known as Yellow bristlegrass. A clump-forming summer annual with a seedhead that resembles a fox's tail.

The bristles turn yellow at maturity, giving the plant its name. The Yellow foxtail has leafy blades about 2 to 12 inches long and most have a spiral twist.





GREEN FOXTAIL

(*Setaria Viridis*)

Summer Annual

Green Foxtail is a clump forming weed with a seed head that resembles a foxtail. Its leaves are sheaths and blades without hairs and can reach 12 inches in length. The flower is a seed head that is bristly and around six inches in length. The difference between Green Foxtail and Yellow Foxtail is that Green Foxtail does not have the silky hair found on the leaves or base of the weed.

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