



**This news release from K-State Research and Extension is available online at <https://ksre-learn.com/home-lawn-weed-invasion>

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Managing a weed invasion in the home lawn

K-State expert urges proactive approach to preventing weeds

By Maddy Rohr, K-State Research and Extension news service

MANHATTAN, Kan. — Fighting weeds in the lawn can be an all-season battle, but Kansas State University horticulture expert Cynthia Domenghini said preventive measures can be taken now to prevent a weed invasion later.

Below are common reasons why weeds invade lawns:

- Improper mowing: Mowing too low and too infrequently thins the turf, allowing weeds to get started.
- Improper watering: Frequent watering encourages weed seed germination, disease, thatch, and a shallow-rooted turf that is less competitive with weeds for soil moisture and nutrients.
- Improper fertilizing: Fertilizing too much, too little or at the wrong time may benefit weeds more than grass.
- Insect and disease injury: Weeds rapidly invade lawns that are thinned by insects and diseases.
- Compacted soil: Soil compaction is a hidden stress on the turfgrass root system. The grass is unable to compete effectively with weeds.
- Excessive wear: Turf areas used for recreation and sports are subjected to wear and compaction.
- Wrong kind of grass: The wrong kind of grass for the location will gradually decline and be invaded by weeds.

- Environmental stress: Weeds often take over a lawn after it has been weakened and thinned from weather-related stress.
- Thatch: Excessive thatch causes shallow-rooted grass and contributes to insect and disease problems.

Domenghini and her colleagues in K-State's Department of Horticulture and Natural Resources produce a weekly [Horticulture Newsletter](#) with tips for maintaining home landscapes and gardens. The newsletter is available to [view online](#) or can be delivered by email each week.

Interested persons can also send their garden and yard-related questions to Domenghini at cdom@ksu.edu, or contact your [local K-State Research and Extension office](#).

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FOR PRINT PUBLICATIONS: Links used in this story

K-State Horticulture Newsletter, <https://hnr.k-state.edu/extension/info-center/newsletters/index.html>

K-State Research and Extension local offices, <https://www.ksre.k-state.edu/about/statewide-locations.html>

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