



# Eco– Friendly Herbicides

Chemical pesticides and herbicides are unhealthy for the environment, animals and people. Any product that is absorbed by the earth can be transferred to the surrounding environment. It is possible to have beautiful landscaping without using harsh, toxic chemicals.

## A few homemade eco-friendly solutions to chemical herbicides are:

1. **Vinegar and salt mixture.** This is great if you don't want to grow anything in that particular area for a while. This solution can be sprayed directly on pesky weeds. Keep in mind that this mixture is organic but not chemical free due to the addition of soap. This may also cause a temporary "pickle" smell in the area sprayed.

### For small mixtures use:

1 cup vinegar  
1/4 cup salt  
1/4 cup soap

### For large mixture

2 gallons of vinegar  
2 cup salt  
1 cup soap

2. **Boiling water.** This technique works best on young weeds.

3. **Cola.** The acid in soda pop is strong enough to kill weeds within a week of coming into contact with the plant. This works best for cracks in driveways and sidewalks. However, it is a sticky solution that may attract ants.

4. **Alcohol and Vinegar mixture.** Mix gin, water and apple cider vinegar into a container and apply directly to weeds. This will damage other plants as well, so be careful to avoid anything you wish to keep alive.

## Pre-emergent

Corn Gluten Meal (CGM) is the only organic, chemical free pre-emergent currently on the market. Corn Gluten is also used as feed for live stock, poultry, fish and as a base for dog food. It will also act as a nitrogen fertilizer, restoring nutrients to the soil without contributing to algae growth the way commercial fertilizers do. Corn Gluten Meal is effective against almost all lawn and garden weeds. However, this will not kill pre-existing weeds. It is solely a pre emergent. Corn Gluten must be spread in the early spring before seed germination and again in August. The meal should be applied as 20lbs of meal per 1000 sq. ft. and wet down LIGHTLY after application.

### Local Stores that carry Corn Gluten:

Violas Flower Garden off of Route 66.  
Homeco Ace Home Center, off of Butler Ave.  
Warner's Nursery, off of Butler Ave.

ExtremelyGreen.com has an Organic Fertilizer and Soil Amendment Guide and an Organic Pest control Guide. In addition to other great resources Extremely Green also has an array of organic home and garden products.

<http://www.extremelygreen.com/index.cfm>, [http://www.vegetable-gardening-gnomes.com/organic\\_weed\\_killer.html](http://www.vegetable-gardening-gnomes.com/organic_weed_killer.html), [http://www.techtransfer.iastate.edu/en/for\\_industry/technology\\_search/cgm\\_licensees.cfm](http://www.techtransfer.iastate.edu/en/for_industry/technology_search/cgm_licensees.cfm)



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