

Non-Chemical Weed Control Methods

This table is intended for use by the Cornell Greenhouse community as a resource to compare non-chemical weed control methods.

Method	Thermal					Mechanical		Barrier	
	Flame	Infrared Radiation	Hot Air	Steam/ Hot H ₂ O	Hot Foam	Hoe/ Rake	Hand Pull	Mulch- inorganic (fabric)	Mulch- granular (gravel, wood chips)
Cost of Equipment	Low	Med	High	Very High	Very High	Low	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low
Cost of Expendables	Med					None		Med	Med
Time Requirement	Med	Med-High	Med	Med	Med	High	Very High	High	High
REI	None					None		None	None
Effectiveness	High for young annuals. Perennials and well-established plants usually require re-treatment					Med	High	High	High
Hazards/ Cautions	Burns, Fire potential		Burns	Reduced visibility, Burns					
When/ Where to Use	Most effective on newly emerged annuals					Small weeds	Few, large weeds	Long-term control	Long-term control
Weed Class Affected	All					All		All	All

Expendables include fuel, chemicals and mulching materials.

Low, Medium and High designations are relative and for comparison purposes only.