

Weeds, Seeds, and other Bad Deeds

Did you know that nut grass/nut sedge can lay dormant for incredibly long periods of time, then reactivate when the surrounding ground is disturbed or when conditions are right for germination? Well, unfortunately it's true.

A hallway of weeds can be born along a path simply by installing the path. As a matter of fact, at one of Dallas' Golf Clubs, a new cart trail was being put in. The contractor cut the path with a bobcat, breaking up the earth and putting it aside. They then put in place the concrete formwork needed for the golf cart trail. Once the concrete was poured and cured they removed the form work and proceeded to level out the surrounding areas by replacing some of the previously excavated dirt back in and around the new trail. This simple act of disturbing the native soil caused nut grass to re-activate within a couple of weeks, thus causing the entire cart trail to be bordered on both sides by a fresh crop of stubborn weeds.

In addition, sometimes nature can work against you, with birds, animals, wind, and even your shoes transplanting those dreaded little seeds, causing big problems for you and your customers.

Prevention

What can be done? Sometimes you are just playing the odds, but you can minimize potential problems by using a *finished* compost when tilling into the native soil. The high yet managed temperatures attained during our composting cycles eliminate all signs of nut grass and other latent weed seeds within the compost. Weeds simply can't survive our stringent multi-step heat sterilization process. SBS composts go thru numerous heat sterilization cycles, and exceed the industry standard for turns and curing times, therefore you can have confidence when using our materials that you will not be introducing unwanted and harmful elements to the landscape. Here are the various composts we produce, all of which achieve these high quality standards.

- ⇒ **pH Balanced Compost™**: Designed to counteract the high alkalinity of our native soil so the plants can thrive in a preferred pH-neutral environment. Our most popular compost for decades.
- ⇒ **Professional Compost™**: Value leader, commercial grade. Top tier seller.
- ⇒ **Acid Lovers' Compost™**: Achieves an acid pH and is optimized for azaleas, camellias, and other acid-loving plants.
- ⇒ **EcoSoil Compost™**: Targeted for large bid jobs and other budget-sensitive installations.

In contrast to the composts above, unmanaged or static-pile compost will not be sufficiently or positively transformed, nor can you have confidence that any present weed seeds have been eradicated when using such an 'unfinished' compost.

When attempting to circumvent weeds completely use one of our turn-key soil mixes. Place the SBS soil mix atop the ground when creating your new bed, thus avoiding having to disturb the soil below. Sidestepping the native soil will eliminate the unknow consequences that may be lurking. When importing soil we recommend:

- ⇒ **Ready-To-Plant™**: pH Balanced turn-key soil blend designed to hold adequate moisture during our blistering summers, while providing an inviting root medium allowing roots, and therefore the plants, to flourish.
- ⇒ **Revitalizer™**: pH Balanced soil used to tune-up existing beds, or to plant directly into as needed.

