

Weed Management on the Washington State Capitol Campus



History

Prior to Initial Pilots Projects (4 years ago)

Oregon Tilth

ecoPRO



Our Goals: West Campus

- Continue to reduce use of synthetic chemicals for weed and control and increase other cultural control methods
- More closely research and inspect purchased soils and compost for potential weed seed contamination
- Continue to trial and experiment with new weed management strategies that are part of an IPM program



Our Goals: East Campus

- Eliminate pesticide use in certain areas, reduce use overall.
- Continue to experiment with different methods of organic weed control.
- Improve soil quality for better plant health.



Our Goals: Campus Parks

- Experiment with weed burner for all gravel paths around Heritage Park.
- Thatch and over seed all turf areas where needed, also soil leveling.
- Cardboard and mulch problem areas.



What have we been trying?

Weed prevention

Mulching with leaves, cardboard, paper, burlap, arborist wood chips, organic mulch, dense plantings.

Weed control

Weed burner, string trimmer, hand pulling, organic liquid herbicides.



Case Study: Lasagna Sheet Mulching



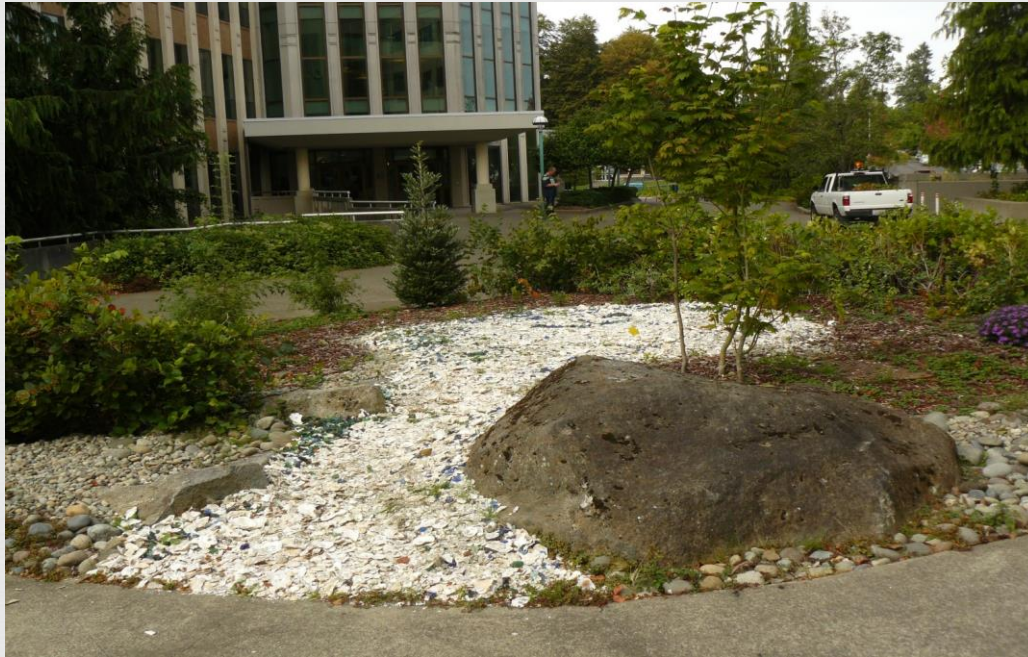
This shrub bed was filled with dandelions in past years.

Added a thick layer of leaves with about 3-4 inches of arborists wood chips on top in the fall of 2015.

Close to 100% success by fall of 2016.



Case Study: Oyster Shell Mulching



Case Study: Cardboard/Burlap Sheet Mulching



Case Study: Leaf Mulching



Case Study: Organic Mulching



Arborist wood chips



**Nutrient rich black bark acting
as a weed suppressor**



Case Study: Weed Burner



Before burning



One day after second burn



After burning once a week for 3 weeks



Case Study: Organic Liquid Herbicides

- **Phydura:** Clove oil and vinegar based. Non-selective.
- **Household (5%) Vinegar:** Non-selective.
- **Fiesta:** Active ingredient is iron. Selective turf herbicide.



Phydura



**One day after Phydura
application**



Two weeks after application



Vinegar



Weeds two days after being sprayed. They eventually recovered, but we did have some success when spraying weeds in sidewalk cracks on a hot day.



Fiesta



Weeds in a section of turf at Heritage Park after being treated. The weeds showed damage after within a day after application, but regrowth occurred within two weeks.



Case Study: Density in Plantings



Case Study: String Trimming



Case Study: Turf Health

- Mowing height
- Mulch mowing
- Aeration
- Compost top-dressing



Case Study: Turf Health



Mowing high to reduce weeds in turf



Next Steps

- ☞ More flame burning
- ☞ Continue with denser plantings
- ☞ Continue with sheet mulching
- ☞ Continue and expand ecolawn wildflower plantings
- ☞ Experiment with salts



Questions/Comments

