



Dandelions. As children, we loved making wishes on their fluffy white heads before gleefully blowing seeds into the wind. Some adults find dandelions beautiful and recognize them as a good source of food for bees and others. We also hear from many people who consider them an eyesore and do whatever they can to keep them away.

Like you, the Town of New Tecumseth, cares about maintaining its lawns and landscaping – just on a much larger scale. Parks staff maintains hundreds of acres of grass in open spaces and parkland.

Dandelions are a perennial weed, growing rapidly over two to three weeks in the spring, with a second rapid period of growth in late summer. Unfortunately, this means that even freshly-mown grass can sometimes look neglected within a day or two.

In 2009, the provincial government passed the Ontario Cosmetic Pesticides Ban Act, which banned the sale and use of more than 250 products and 80 pesticide ingredients. Since then, the Township has adopted an “Integrated Plant Health Care” strategy to increase the heartiness of grass and prevent weed growth where possible.

Beginning in early spring, staff takes a number of proactive steps to combat dandelion growth without the use of pesticides:

- The frequency and timing of grass cutting is adjusted to reduce the number of weeds that spread seeds.
- Grass is mowed at a height of 3” to promote stronger grass roots and create shade at the soil level.
- High-traffic grass areas are fertilized and aerated more often.
- Hard surface areas like walkways are treated with a “horticultural Vinegar” to help control the spread of weeds.
- Garden and shrub areas are covered with mulch to help retain water and prevent weed seeds from coming in contact with soil.
- To reduce maintenance requirements, more trees and fewer shrubs are being planted in new developments.

In the areas where these methods are not practical, Town staff will manually remove weeds.

The Town of New Tecumseth is committed to caring for its parks and landscapes naturally,

For any inquires

parks@newtecumseth.ca