

Table 1. Non-chemical weed control alternatives available for container nursery growers.

Product	Cost per #1 container	Major advantage	Major disadvantage
Granular herbicide*	Less than \$0.01	Low product cost, proven effectiveness	Repeated applications necessary, some crops are sensitive, and not labeled for use enclosed structures
Sawdust	Less than \$0.01	Cheap, readily available	Degrades relatively quickly
Hazelnut shells	Less than \$0.01	Cheap, effective, locally available (Oregon)	Seasonal availability, so product must be stored on-site until needed
BioTop	\$0.03	Easy to apply	Injures some crops
Crumb rubber	\$0.03	Effective, easy to apply	End-users may not accept it
Geotextile disk	\$0.08	Safe, easy to apply	Blows away, only works for crops with central leader
Coco disks	\$0.09	Effective, can accommodate most crops	Labor-intensive to apply
Plastic Weed Control Disk	\$0.06	Manufactured uniform product, reusable	Rigid, does not accommodate all plants

\*Cost calculated for year-long weed control with herbicides, assuming herbicide cost \$250/treated acre, 3 applications are made throughout the growing season, and containers are spaced pot-to-pot (170,000 pots/treated acre).