

Weeding Tips, Tricks, and Useful Tools

All gardeners know that keeping a garden weed free is important for garden health and maximum harvest, but sometimes this can seem like an impossible task! Here are 5 tips and tricks that are quick, easy, and inexpensive for keeping weeds under control.

- 1. Do Not Disturb:** Every garden has thousands of weed seeds present in the “weed seedbank,” but only those that are present in the top 3 inches receive enough sunlight, water and heat to grow. Limiting tilling or digging of garden soil, will limit the amount of weed seeds that germinate.
- 2. Cover Them Up:** Just like the other plants growing in your garden, weeds need light to grow. By decreasing the amount of sunlight, the weeds receive you can directly decrease the amount of seeds that will germinate and grow. Use mulches like straw or wood chips, as well as plastic coverings or other light blocking fabrics over the soil around your crops.
- 3. Be Proactive:** Small, young weeds are much easier to uproot than larger, more mature weeds. If the weed is too large, pulling the entire plant up from the ground will not only be physically challenging, but will also result in lots of soil disturbance. Focusing on weeds when they are small, will allow you to maximize the number of weeds you are able to remove from your garden quickly and efficiently.
- 4. Keep Them Straight:** Planting your seeds or transplants in straight rows can make weeding easier and help distinguish desired seedlings from baby weeds.
- 5. Find the Tool that Works for you:** Finding a tool that helps you to pull the entire weed from the ground more quickly and efficiently can be important for long days of weeding. Some examples of common weeding tools are presented below.



Stirrup Hoe: Cuts weeds just below the soil surface with push and pull motions.



Wheel Hoe: Quickly and easily removes weeds from aisle ways or in-between rows of plants.



Collinear Hoe: Slice through young weeds without throwing soil all while standing-up.



Gama Hoe: A hand tool with a sharp blade useful for weeding and planting.



Hori Hori: A versatile garden knife. Includes a blade for slicing, serrated edge for sawing, and point for digging and prying.



Fishtail Weeder: Useful for pulling out weeds with deep taproots like dandelions.