

# URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

## How to: Weed a Garden

Anyone who is a gardener, whether to make money or recreationally, knows weeds can wreak havoc on a garden's beauty and its production. Weeds take energy and nutrients from the soil and they can bring different diseases into your garden – damaging your plants, taking their energy or, at the very least, making the garden less eye-appealing than it can be. However, instead of just yanking the weeds out by hand whenever you see them, there are specific methods you can use to weed your garden correctly and return it to its beautiful state.



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### Tools for weeding:

Although many gardeners decide to slap some gloves on and go pulling weeds with their hands, hands are not the best tools to remove weeds with because oftentimes, the root will remain in the ground and it'll only be a short while before the weeds pop up again. Instead, use a shovel, spading fork or even a hoe to remove the entire plant, including the roots, of the weed.

### Timing:

Some weeds are very stubborn and difficult to remove from the ground, so the timing in which you weed your garden is very important. Although it may seem easiest to remove the weeds right after a rain when the soil is looser, it is better to weed in the morning of a sunny day. The UV rays from the sun throughout the hottest parts of the day will damage the roots of the disposed weeds, making it more difficult for them to re-root into the soil. Weed in short bursts instead of large periods of time so you don't

get burnt out and have to weed your entire garden in one sitting to see your plants again. Besides the difficulty factor, know your weeds so you can remove them before they go to seed and populate your entire garden. Research the most common types of weeds you see in your garden and know their seed cycles so you can remove the plant before it goes to seed.

### Preventative measures:

Weeding is a necessary action to control the weeds that have already sprouted and begun to grow in your garden, but there are certain preventative measures that can be taken to keep weeds away in the first place. One of these is mulching. Mulch not only helps the soil retain moisture and better the plant's overall growth, mulch also deprives the weeds of light, which they need to grow. Some mulches can even be a good home for crickets and other critters that will eat the weed seeds before they take



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root in your garden.

## Other methods:

Although hand-weeding or weeding with tools may be the best choice for the natural or organic gardener, sometimes weed killer may help out when you've let the weeds go too long and they seem impossible to tackle without the help of some chemicals.

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