



Weeding Without Roundup

Presented by Parrish DeVaughn





Mulch

Spreading a layer of mulch around the base of a plant or over the top of your garden adds a protective layer to the soil that can help prevent weeds by reducing their access to sunlight. It also deters insects and improves soil quality.

Examples of mulching material include:

- Compost
- Newspaper or cardboard
- Shredded bark or wood chips
- Grass clippings or shredded leaves
- Straw (Not hay! Hay contains seeds that may sprout in mulch)



Cover Crops

Cover crops are fast-growing crops, usually grasses and legumes, that attract pollinators and out-compete weeds in the off-season while improving the quality of the soil in your garden.

When you are ready to plant, till the garden and plant over them. You'll notice significantly less weeds sprouting up!



Examples of cover crops include:

- Alfalfa
- Vetch
- Clover
- Peas
- Beans
- Wheat
- Rye





Corn Gluten Meal

Corn gluten meal, a powdery by-product of corn syrup, can prevent weed seeds from rooting when spread on your lawn or garden.

Tips for Using Corn Gluten Meal

- Corn gluten meal is a pre-emergent weed killer, so it needs to be applied before you see any dandelions sprouting.
- While corn gluten meal does not hurt existing grass, it can kill new grass seed, so don't apply them at the same time!
- Apply 20 pounds per 1,000 square feet.
- Wait until the forecast predicts several days without rain before applying, but do water immediately after applying.



Vodka

Alcohol breaks down the wax cuticle that protects plants from dehydrating in strong sunlight. On the next sunny day, fill a spray bottle with water and a splash of vodka, and spray the mixture on the trunk of any weeds you find. This method won't work on cloudy days or weeds growing in the shade, however.





Vinegar

Vinegar is a desiccant, which means it can pull the moisture out of plants when sprayed on their leaves, causing them to wither and die in just a few days after application. When combined with salt, another desiccant, and soap, which breaks down a weed's natural waxy protection, it's even more effective.

Recipe for Homemade Vinegar Weedkiller

1 gal. white vinegar (20% acidity)

1 cup salt (stir until dissolved)

1 tbsp. liquid dish soap



Boiling water

Pouring boiling water directly over a weed will kill it almost instantly by essentially cooking it in the ground. This is a great method for killing weeds growing up in cracks in your sidewalk or driveway.





Manual Weeding

No one likes to do it, but it's the most effective way to remove weeds from your driveway, lawn, or garden.

Look at it this way--it's a character-building chore for your children!

Gardening Tips from Parrish DeVaughn

- Be careful not to spray plants you don't want to kill
- Always wear gloves and protective eyewear and avoid skin contact when applying weed killer to your garden
- Keep potentially harmful substances out of reach of children and pets
- Drink plenty of water and take breaks often to prevent overheating while weeding





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