

Identify common garden weeds

In this activity you will learn how to identify weeds that are common in most gardens.

What do we need to start?

- Hand fork or trowel
- Bucket of water
- Plastic bags
- Pen/pencil and notebook
- Newspaper
- Books to identify weeds

A weed is simply plant growing in the wrong place. A nice-looking flower growing in the middle of some vegetables is a weed and it can become as much of a nuisance as any of the common, quick growing weeds that appear in the garden.

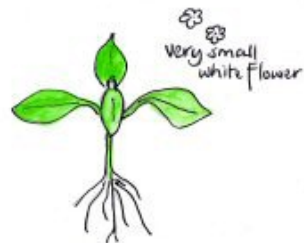
When you walk around the garden, particularly in the late spring and early summer, you will notice that any bare ground soon becomes covered with weeds. Weeds grow very quickly and start to compete with other plants. Weeds can be removed quite easily with a hoe or by loosening the soil with a hand fork and pulling them out. Be careful with plants such as the dandelion. It has a large root, called a taproot, and you have to make sure you get it all out of the soil. If you leave a piece behind, a new plant will grow!

Once you have done some garden weeding you will get familiar with those that keep reappearing. Remove the soil from the roots of several different weeds and carefully wash and dry them. Use gardening books, the internet or get a gardener to help you identify and name the weeds you find. Also make a small sketch of each weed showing the shape of the leaves and the colour of any flowers. This can help you to remember plant names in the future. Aim to collect, draw and name 10 different common weeds.

Some weeds you may find in your garden (spaces have been left for others you might be able to identify):

Annual Meadow Grass	Buttercup	Chickweed
Campion	Charlock	Cleavers
Clover	Daisy	Dandelion
Dead-nettle	Dock	Fat Hen
Forget-me-not	Rosebay willow herb	Groundsel
Mayweed	Knotgrass	Nettle
Pansy	Poppy	Shepherd's Purse
Spurrey	Spurge	Thistle
Vetch		

DRAW SOME COMMON WEEDS



CHICKWEED
(Stellaria media)



BUTTERCUP
(Ranunculus)



FAT HEN
(Chenopodium album)



THISTLE
(Cirsium arvense)