

# Weeding

## What are weeds?

A weed is a plant growing where it is not wanted.

Some weeds spread around the garden by producing seeds, which are carried by the wind. When the seeds land on the compost or soil a new plant grows.

Other weeds spread around the garden by roots, which grow and spread underground. If any part of the root is left in the soil after weeding a new weed plant will grow.

## Annual weeds

Annual weeds grow, flower and spread their seeds in one growing season. They usually have shallow roots and can easily be pulled out of the compost or soil.

## Perennial weeds

Perennial weeds can grow year after year. They can spread by seed like annual weeds but also by spreading roots. They often have deep roots which can be difficult to remove by hand

## Why weed?

Weeds are a problem because they take away from the plants we want to grow:

- Water
- Sunlight
- Food called nutrients from the soil

When weeds take away water, sunlight and nutrients the plants we want to grow gets problems with:

- Pests and diseases
- Looking untidy
- Becoming poorly shaped

## **Hand weeding**

Weeding is the name given to the job of removing weeds  
Hand weeding means pulling the weeds from the ground, out of pots, flower borders or pathways.

This is usually an easy job, unless the weed has deep roots. If it has deep roots you must make sure you get all the roots out. If you do not, the weeds will grow again.

Hand weeding is only one way of weeding. Other ways include using chemical weed killers or using a tool such as a hoe to weed.

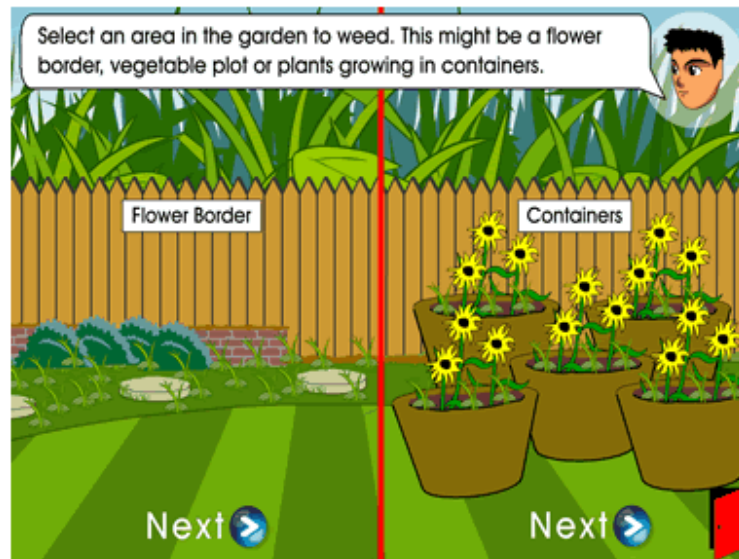
Keeping weeds under control means they don't flower, produce seeds and spread further.

## Tools required

- A container to put the weeds in – a bucket or a wheel barrow
- Gardening gloves
- Hand trowel or hand fork to remove deep rooted weeds



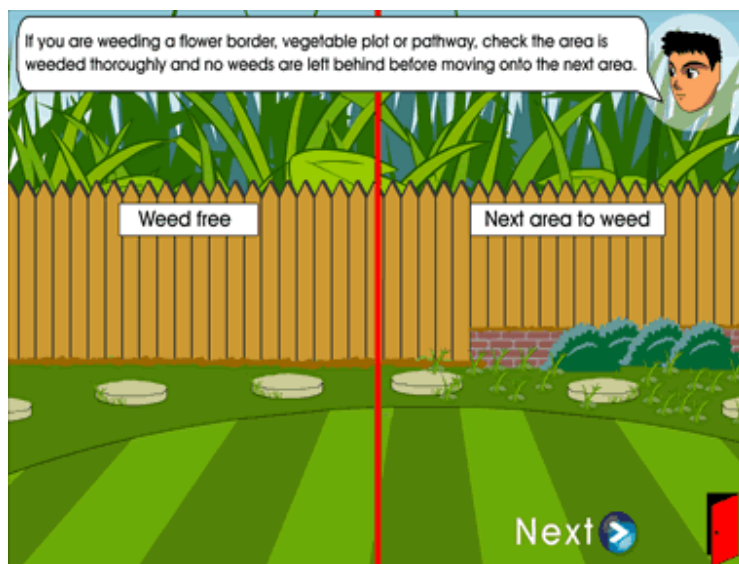
1. Select an area in the garden to weed; this might be a flower border, vegetable plot or plants growing in containers.



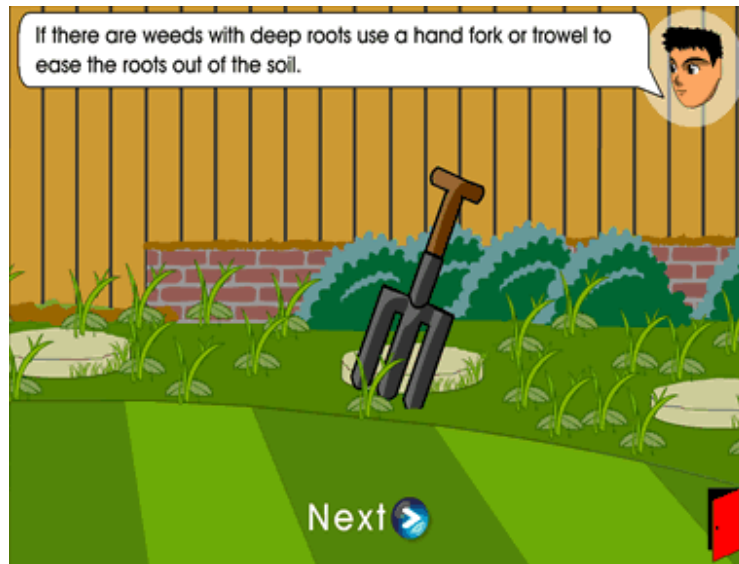
2. Make sure that if you are weeding plants in containers, every container is checked for weeds. If you miss just one weed it will produce more seeds and spread around the garden.



3. If you are weeding a flower border, vegetable plot or pathway, check the area is weeded thoroughly and no weeds are left behind before moving onto the next area.



4. If there are weeds with deep roots use a hand fork or trowel to ease the roots out of the soil.



5. Collect all weeds in a bucket or wheelbarrow. Check to see if the weeds should be put onto the compost heap or into the bin.

