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Organic Weed Control Guide

By **Monica Resinger**

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Weeds can spoil the look of a flowerbed, rob valuable nutrients from the soil and can be a general nuisance. If you don't keep up with them, they can be even more troublesome to get rid of. While they can be difficult to get under control, don't lose hope, it just takes a little persistence and know how.

Here are some organic methods for controlling weeds:

Use of a stirrup hoe:

The best method I have found for controlling weeds works best in a vegetable garden planted in rows and on young weed seedlings. You use a stirrup hoe to cultivate the ground at least once a week. This hoe is like a regular hoe, but instead of the flat surface, there is a round or squared off metal hoop at the end. The side closest to you has a sharp edge, which cuts the weeds roots as you are hoeing through the soil. It doesn't take much time to go out and work your hoe down each row and by doing this, no weeds can grow because seedlings are uprooted or cut off before they have a chance. You will have to weed by hand up close and in between garden plants because the stirrup hoe can uproot or damage them if worked too close.

Use of a pitchfork:

By using a pitchfork in a new and/or large bed with little or no existing plants, you will be able to get most of the roots of long rooted weeds. It also enables you to cover a large area faster. To use a pitchfork for weed control, push it under a group of weeds and lift them. Shake the soil off the weeds and dispose of them in the compost pile.

Vinegar or boiling water:

If you spot a weed growing in the sidewalk cracks of your sidewalk or in your driveway, try pouring boiling water or vinegar over them. Don't do this in your flowerbeds because it could also kill neighboring plants.

Mulch:

Use lots of mulch. As long as mulch is applied thick enough to keep sunlight from reaching the soil, it

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will keep new weeds from sprouting. You can use grass clippings, shredded and chipped branches, beauty bark, hay, leaves or compost.

Hand picking:

Take a walk through the yard equipped with a bucket and gloves as often as possible and hand pick weeds. Try to pick them before they flower to prevent them from going to seed and seeding themselves all over the yard. Also, be sure to get all the roots; if you don't, the weed will more than likely be back in a couple of weeks.

I hope this guide can help you in controlling your weeds. The key to getting and staying weed free is persistence. You have to stay on top of it by checking your gardens regularly and maintaining what needs to be done.

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Brick Patio Weed Control

By Hans Dekker

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Brick Patio Weed Control

In researching this article, I found one instance where a homeowner was so incensed by the weeds in her patio that she set fire to them with a blowtorch! Luckily, several items provide better service as a weeding tool and there are several better alternatives for brick patio weed control.

Of course, the best method of brick patio weed control is proper installation of your brick patio. An under-layment of pea gravel, topped by a layer of sturdy landscape cloth, covered with a layer of sand will give your brick patio a firm footing as well as cramp the style of any weeds in the area. Nevertheless, if your brick patio is already installed and running rampant with weeds, here are some tips to help you succeed in brick patio weed control.

First, to make your brick patio weed control plan a success, implement your plan before weeds flower. This keeps weeds from going to seed and helps make a short-term plan last for a longer time.

For the following tip and other tips that involve weed dousing of one sort or another, use a piece of

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cardboard or scrap of Plexiglas to protect nearby plants.

One of the best ways to kill a vegetable of any kind is to cook it. Boiling water is a natural and very inexpensive weed-wilder and works to kill most forms of annual weeds and kills or weakens many types of perennial weeds. A teakettle is your weeding tool. Fill it with water and bring it to a boil. While you're waiting (because a watched pot never boils, you know!) go outside and cut the culprits down to their crowns. When the water begins to boil, grab the kettle (using a potholder) and pour the water on the crowns of the weeds, holding the kettle high enough only to avoid splashing. Killing weeds with boiling water will also scald any biological organisms that get splashed, but more will return as soon as the soil cools.

Vinegar will kill most weeds. However, grocery store vinegar is normally a 5% solution and is too weak to do the job. Ten-percent vinegar will kill most weeds and usually is found where canning and pickling supplies are sold. A 20% solution of vinegar kills really stubborn weeds, but is frequently more than twice as expensive as 10%. Try the 10% for brick patio weed control before you make the investment in a stronger solution. Spray the vinegar directly on the weeds, using the shield mentioned above and taking care not to inhale fumes. You may also want to wear gloves and eye protection as a further safeguard for this type of brick patio weed control.

I'm the owner and one of the site Patio Furniture Guides"Visit our site for more ideas, tips and tricks



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