

BASIC VEGETABLE GARDEN WEED MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Toledo GROWS Best Practices—Tending a Garden

Fall and Spring cleanup in the Garden

- Remove all weeds before amending the soil in Fall or Spring
- Dig out as much of the weeds' root systems as possible
- Weed the nearby adjacent areas (non-garden) to keep weed seeds from migrating via wind and birds into the garden

Garden Pathway Options

- Spread a 3-4 inch layer of coarse mulch/woodchips (it takes longer to break down than shredded landscaping mulch)
- Lay newspaper or permeable weed cloth in pathways before spreading mulch to keep weeds from growing through the mulch
- Cardboard also works well under mulch, as long as nothing is growing in the area and roots in the ground from nearby plants, trees or shrubs will not be covered
- Grow grass in the pathways and mow as needed

Garden Bed Weed Control

- Mark garden plants with colorful ties to distinguish them from the weeds
- Mow or trim the areas adjacent to the garden throughout the season to keep seed heads from forming
- Use weed barrier in the planting beds and around plants
 - Moisten dry soil a few inches down before laying a barrier
 - Weed barriers should not touch the base of the garden plants—leave a ½" bare area around the plant base
 - Some weed barrier options:
 - Permeable weed/landscape fabric - lay in beds and cut slits for plants before planting
 - 2" layer of untreated, aged grass clippings – make sure it has not been sprayed with herbicides in the last eight weeks. For more protection place a single layer of newspaper under the grass clippings.
 - Straw

Spraying in the Garden

- **Never use any commercial, chemical herbicides in the garden.**
- Spraying natural herbicides (vinegar, etc.) in garden beds and around plants is not recommended as many plants have shallow surface roots which could be affected.
- Any natural or commercial products can change the pH of the soil and harm pollinators and other beneficial insects.

Weekly Garden Maintenance

- Weed weekly after watering when soil is moist
- Smaller weeds have shallower root systems and are easier to remove
- Use a handheld or long handled hoe to quickly remove small, shallow rooted weeds between garden plant rows
- Pull weeds located close the base and drip line of a garden plant by hand so the plant roots are not damaged



Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about our services

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