

Mary, Mary! How Does Your Garden Grow!

If you are planning on having a vegetable garden this spring, you will face some problems with weeds. Weed is plant that growing where it is not wanted. Weeds can grow in lawns, gardens or flower beds. Weeds rob vegetable plants of resources needed for the vegetable to grow, Such as water, fertilizer, and sunlight. While there is no cure to total eliminate weeds from your vegetable garden, but there are several things you can do to help eliminate their growth:

1. **Remove weeds by hand:** Hand- pulling is the safest and most effective method of removing weeds from the garden. The best time to remove weeds is after a rain, the soil is moist and the weeds are more easily to come out of the soil and you have a better chance of getting the roots.
2. **Mulching:** Mulching helps suppress weeds by limiting the amount of sunlight, which is necessary for them to become established. Mulching can also help retain soil moisture, reduce soil temperature and improve the soil. Don't apply more than 2 to 3 inches of mulch around your plants.
3. **Cultivating:** This is the most popular method for reducing weeds in vegetable garden because it is less time consuming and less labor intensive than removing weeds by hand pulling. When cultivating makes sure you don't damage your vegetables.
4. **Reducing plant spacing:** Sometimes reducing the space between your vegetable plants can decrease weeds. The less space between plants, the less space weeds have to grow. Make sure you don't plant your vegetables so close they don't have room to grow.
5. **Herbicides:** Herbicides should be your last choice for weed control. They are only a short term solution. Before using any herbicide, identify the weed you want to control and make sure the herbicide can be used in a vegetable garden. If the weed is not listed on the label, don't use the herbicide. When using herbicides, make sure you read and follow the label directions.

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