



# EASY CARE GARDENING



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## *Mini Gardening Class*

*Presented by Meredith Kirton MAIH RH*

# Today's Lesson

## WEEDING BASICS

*What is a weed?*

*Types of weeding.*

*When is the best time to weed?*

*What tools do I need?*

*Common Problems with weeding.*

*What to do with your weeds*

*Weedicides*

*Bush Regeneration*

*Foraging for Weed Feeds*

*We Need You!*

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## *What is a Weed?*

### THERE ARE THREE OTHERS

1. Plants whose undesirable qualities outweigh their attributes
2. A plant whose virtues have not yet been discovered (R.W.Emerson)
3. Plants that are competitive, persistent, pernicious, and interfere negatively with human activity. (Ross, et. al.)

A plant growing where it is not wanted.

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# Types of Weeding

KEEP THESE IN MIND!

## MANUALLY REMOVING THE PLANT

- Perennial weeds will need to have their permanent root stocks dug out
- Annual weeds need to have the seed heads removed
- Using livestock to remove the plant - eg. chickens

## STOPPING IT FROM SEEDING

- Some plants might need to stay put as they are performing another function, so preventing the plant from seeding and replicating may be a better control.
- Mulching - how thick? 7cm

## KILLING IT IN SITU

- Herbicide
- Selective herbicide
- Organic herbicides
- Other treatment such as fire, stem boiling water, solarisation

# When to weed?

*One year's seeding makes seven years' weeding*

## WINTER

- 1 • Deciduous plants like roses can be weeded more easily when bare and then mulched heavily
- Bindii in lawns
- Spring flowering perennials like fireweed and crofton weed

## SUMMER

- 3 • Privet before the fruits ripen
- Spring flowering plants like Coreopsis, Wattles, Watsonias

## SPRING

- 2 • When flowering bulbs start to fade, this is the best time to spray with weedicide to kill the bulb as the poison will be drawn down as the nutrients are stock piled for the following year. This includes onion weed, onion grass and some herbaceous oxalis.

## AUTUMN

- 4 • Summer flowering plants like agapanthus
- Bulbous plants like Turkey Rhubarb

# Common Problems

- *Not removing the plant's roots*
- *Not removing seed source*
- *Not mulching*
- *Spreading Disease*
- *Weed is providing other ecological services like soil retention, habitat, soil enrichment, even food*



## TOOLS

Double pronged cultivator



Hoe



Weeder



Crack weeder or Swiss Chopper





## *Common Weeds*

- *Couch Grass*
- *Privet*
- *Lantana*
- *Blackberry*
- *Trad*
- *Turkey Rhubarb*
- *Madeira Vine*
- *Balloon Vine*
- *Asthma Weed*



## *What to do with Your Weeds?*

- *Bag them to let them break down*
- *Turn them into biochar*
- *Compost them*
- *Mulch them*
- *Make Weed Soup*
- *Don't bundle weeds in seed or they can drop more seeds*

# *Bush regeneration*

## WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

Is the rehabilitation of bush from a weed affected or degraded area. It normally involves removing or reducing the threatening plants and weed species that are having a detrimental impact on these areas.

The Bushcare program provides support for volunteers to conserve habitats in the area.

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# *Weedicides*

## WHAT IS THE RIGHT PRODUCT TO USE?

Selective herbicides can be useful in lawns, for example, where you don't want to kill the grass.

Herbicides like Glyphosate (Roundup and Zero) are not normally used as selective in urban systems, are a generally a 'kill all' chemical.

Organic chemicals like Slasher are made from various plant derived chemicals and need complete coverage to work as they are not systemic.

Other chemicals, like Sulphate of Ammonia, are used to kill off broad leaf weeds in lawns.

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# *Common Edible Weeds*



DANDELIONS



TURKEY RHUBARB



CHICKWEED

PREPARING YOUR WEEDS FOR FEED!

## *Weed Recipes!*

FARMERS FRIEND

DANDELION SALAD

TURKEY RHUBARB

NETTLE SOUP

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REMEMBER THIS:

*May all your weeds be  
wild flowers!*

Carol J. Michel

**WE NEED**  
**you!**



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GARDENING**

**9983 1644**

**VOLUNTEER GARDENERS**

[www.easycaregardening.org.au](http://www.easycaregardening.org.au)