



Pardon Me, Your Weeds Are Showing:

12 Tips to Avoid Embarrassment

“He who tills the soil is to make his work
an object-lesson of the careful, thorough
work which must be done in the culture of
the soil of the heart.”

–Ellen G. White, RH June 27, 1907

1. Transplant as
much as you
possibly can.

*Immediately gives you a
3-4 week (or more) head
start on the weeds.*



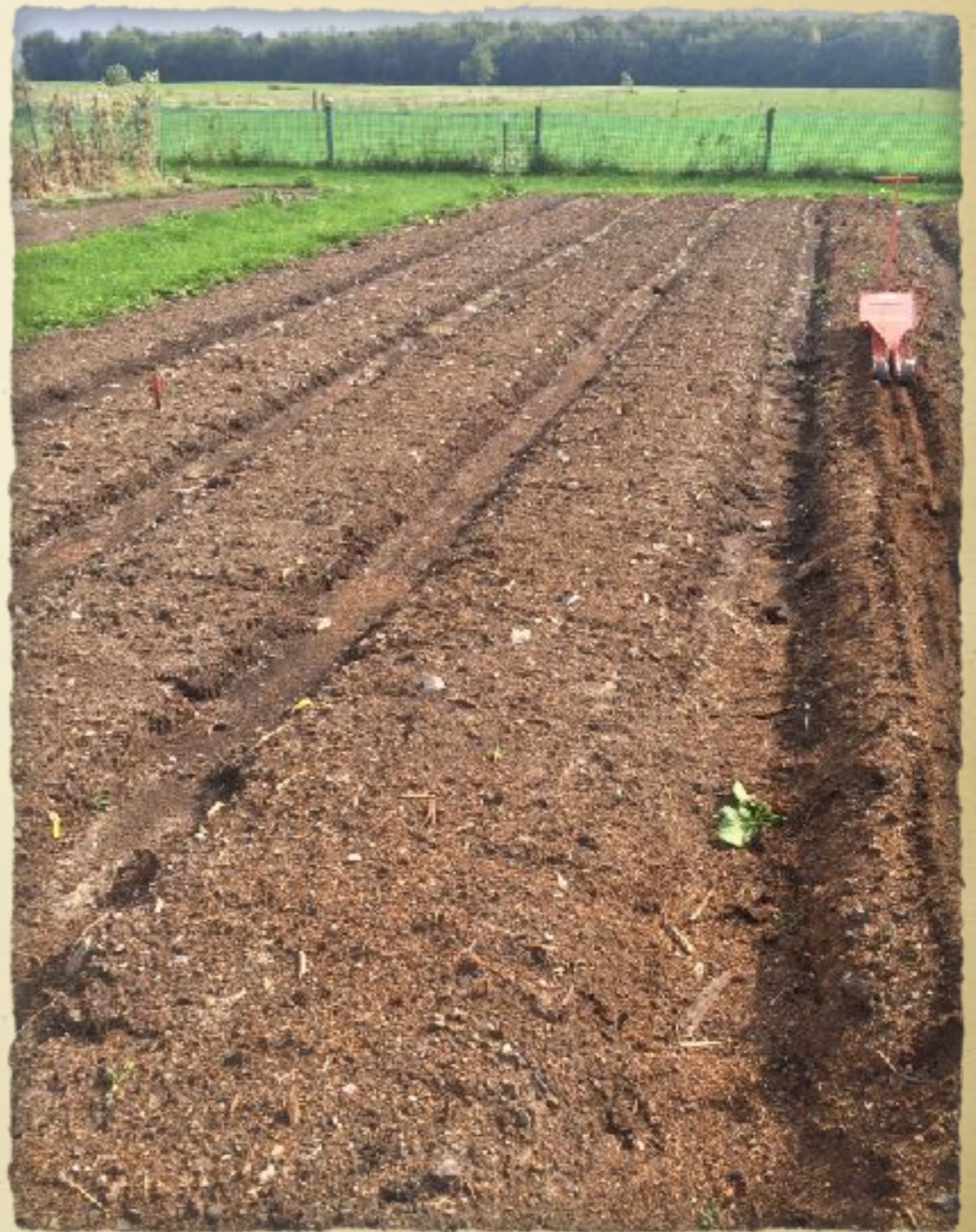


2. Use tight plant spacings to shade out weeds.

Plant leaves should be touching at 3/4 mature size.

3. Use “stale seedbeds”

*Prepare your beds for
planting 2 or more weeks
ahead of time.*





4. Use specialized cultivating hoes.

- *colinear hoes*
- *stirrup hoes*
- *wheel hoes - with stirrups or discs*
- *wire weeders*
- *flex tine weeders*

5. Schedule
time for
cultivating.

*“Little attentions often
repeated”*





6. Use “shallow till” or “no till”

*Keeps weed seeds from being
“withdrawn” from the weed
seed “bank”*

7. Use plastic or fabric mulch

*Follow the
"60 day rule"*





8. Use organic mulches

Be aware that there are potential drawbacks — depending on climate and location.



9. Use silage tarps

- *Heavy-duty, UV resistant black on white plastic.*
- *Best if kept down for 3 or 4 weeks.*
- *The closest thing I've found to "no work" bed preparation.*

10. Try flameweeding

- *You don't need to burn the weeds,
burst the cells.*
- *Weeds must be small*
- *Can be combined with stale seedbeds.*



11. Use clear plastic for solarization.

- *Soil must be moist*
- *Temperatures must be hot (do in the summer time)*
- *Edges must be sealed.*





12. Never let
weeds go to
seed!

*“One year’s seeding is
seven years weeding.”*

13. Use “Smother Crops” to Outcompete Weeds

- *Summer: Buckwheat, soybeans, cowpeas,
sorghum-sudan grass*
- *Winter: Wheat, Rye, Vetch, Crimson
Clover*
- *Seed thicker than normal rates*



- View these tips as tools in your tool chest. All may not be relevant for your situation, but the more strategies you use, the better the chances of keeping your weeds from showing.
- Keep in mind that it is very shortsighted to allow other farming activities to take priority over cultivating.
- All financially profitable farms that I know of have their weeds under control.
- A weed-free garden will be a much more enjoyable place to be!