

# **Beating the Botanical Besiegement**

**Weed management options for the home garden.**

**What is a weed?**

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**“a wild plant growing where it is not wanted and in competition with cultivated plants”**

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**a plant that is in the wrong place**

**Why are weeds a problem?**

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- They compete with garden plants for resources

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- Possibility for crop contamination

**Common characteristics of  
“problem” weeds:**



# Common characteristics of “problem” weeds:

- **Fast growing**

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- Fast growing
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- Travel

Weed management is a system,  
not an activity.

**What are your options?**

# There are 5 main categories:

- Mechanical
- Chemical
- Cultural
- Preventative
- Biological

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**Bonus:  
Fire!**



# Mechanical

Involves the use of tools (or hands) to cut, dislodge, remove or otherwise kill weeds

- **Garden Hoe**
- **Tiller**



AS700

AS400











**NEVERSINK FARM**

**WHAT IS A  
WIRE WEEEDER?**









# Cultivation vs. Weeding

**Cultivating:**

**Loosening and aerating the soil  
at a shallow depth**

**Weeding:**

**Removing established weeds**

# Chemical

The use of any chemical agent to  
kill weeds

- 20% or 30% Vinegar
- OMRI Listed Herbicides

**\*In these concentrations,  
Vinegar is considered a strong  
acid. Always wear PPE and  
follow instructions on label**





# Preventative

Any measures that are taken to prevent the spread and establishment of weeds

- Using clean seed
- Keeping tools and equipment clean
- Weed barrier
- Mulch





# Cultural

**Maintaining field conditions in such a way that weeds are less likely to become established**

- **Crop spacing**
- **Soil fertility**
- **Cover crops**
- **Living mulch**









# Biological

The use of natural enemies to control a weed population

- **Using sheep in a pasture to control broad leaves**

# Fire

Using heat from the burning of propane fuel to kill weeds





Questions