



Weeds. Weeds. Weeds. 🙄 🙄

Words of Wisdom:

Dave: *Prevention is the key. Better to spend a day preventing weeds, than weeks eradicating them.*

Lisa: *Get 'em while their young.*

Prevention options:

- Tilling
- Cultivating (hoeing or mechanical)
- Flame Weeding (not enough growers flame weed)
- Cover Crops
- Natural Mulch (leaves, straw, cardboard, etc.)
- Plastic Mulch
- Biodegradable Mulch
- Fabric Mulch
- Silage Tarps

Flame Weeding works great on weed seedlings, but not on grass weeds. Prep a bed and water it to get the weed seeds near the surface to germinate. Then flame weeds every couple days until planting a new bed with transplants. Flame-weed direct sown beds until the morning the first good seed germinates. Bachelor Buttons sprout in 3-4 days. Larkspur sprouts in 10-20 days. Plant your seeds in rows within the bed so you know where to look for baby seedlings.

No Flame Weeder? Try doing what's called a stale seed bed or garden. Fully prepare and finish a block of beds with compost and fertilizer. Now you are ready to plant--but don't plant yet. It's best if it rains right before covering or water the beds. Cover with a silage tarp. Leave it for several weeks. The weed seeds that have been brought to the surface will sprout and then die under the tarp from lack of sunlight. Once all sprouted weed seedlings are dead, remove cover and plant with little to no weed pressure.

Tough perennial weeds? Use cardboard covered with leaves or straw.

Mowing makes a difference. Keep weeds in the walkways and open areas from producing seeds by mowing them short. Mowing also gives an instant neatening-up. Kind of like vacuuming the house. Even weedy beds look better when the edges are mowed clean. Consider how you will manage and prevent weeds when planning your beds. Weekly mowing is easier to accomplish when there are less obstacles to move or mow around.

A bulb crop like allium or narcissus can be tarped during the summer while they are dormant to prevent weeds from taking over. Be aware of voles. They love eating under tarps and fabric. Snakes like it too because they love looking for voles and mice.

Be careful tilling some perennial weeds. You'll just create a thousand divisions that will all grow.