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Weed Management

Consider weeding as your "green gym"

"Garden exercise" can keep you fit and saves you loads of money

Control Methods

Cultural mechanical, biological, chemical

- **Cultural control** means planting desirable plants that will squeeze out undesirable plants
- **Mechanical control** physically disrupts weed growth by tilling, hoeing, hand -pulling, mowing, burning and smothering with mulch
- **Biological Control** is a method used to disrupt weed growth. The organism is either an insect or disease and a natural enemy of the weed.
- **Chemical Control** the use of herbicides to disrupt weed growth.

Weed Management

A weed management system employs two or more control methods. The key is to encourage desirable plant growth. Plant competition is an overlooked tool and should be used 1st but not alone. Mechanical control should be the next method used although most people cut to the chase and employ herbicides only. Herbicides are only one of the components of weed management.

Types of Weeds

Annual- germinate and mature in one season and die leaving a supply of seeds to germinate that fall or following season must remove before they go to seed

Biennial- take two growing seasons to mature enough to produce seed, then die. In the 1st season they germinate in early summer and most form a rosette of leaves at soil level developing a long taproot. The 2nd season they produce an upright stem which flowers and sets seed. They are more easily removed in the 1st year by uprooting or treating with a contact herbicide at the seedling stage, or a systemic can also be as effective. If the flowering stem is prevented from growing the plant may become perennial. This often happens with Thistle and Ragwort when they grow in regularly cut grass, and the growing point of the basal rosette is below the sweep of the mower blades.

Perennial-form a storage system in their roots or stems and live for many seasons. They are the most difficult to remove as they have a number of methods to ensure their survival.