

Home & GARDEN

Weed free without pesticides

(NC)—As the use of pesticides becomes increasingly restricted, gardeners need to find new ways to control weeds. Although getting rid of dandelions without chemicals is a more environmentally friendly approach to a beautiful lawn and garden, it can be challenging.

"It's not always necessary to get down on your hands and knees to pull up weeds," says Rob Dewar, spokesperson for Fiskars Garden Tools. "If you choose the proper tools and follow a few simple techniques, you can easily control weeds without chemical alterna-

tives."

As a first step, identify the weeds in your garden and learn about their lifecycles. Annuals spread by seed, so you need to pull them before their seeds set. To eliminate perennials, you'll need to dig out the entire root.

Use the proper tools that can make the job less painful. "The new Fiskars Weeder lets you weed standing up," comments Dewar. "To use the Weeder the gardener simply places the tool directly over the weed, pushes the claws into the ground with their foot and then draws the shaft back, pulling the weed out in one



smooth, effortless action."

Make sure you cover bare soil. Adding two to four inches of organic mulch as a cover on bare soil can help prevent weeds from growing.

Keep seeds buried. Soil can contain as many as 80,000 weed seeds per square yard. When you dig down and turn the soil, those seeds are exposed to sunlight and rain, causing them to sprout and grow. Cover your garden with an inch of weed-free and seed-free compost after turning the soil.

Don't water your weeds. Even weeds can't grow without water, so use a water method that applies water directly to the plants you want to grow.

For additional gardening tips visit www.fiskars.ca or call 1-800-488-5029.

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