



How to Have a Weed-less Garden

There is no such thing as a garden without weeds. But, there is such a thing as a garden with less weeds! In my opinion, time spent weeding is something to be minimized as much as possible. I'd rather be out enjoying my garden in endless other ways than toiling under the hot sun pulling out weeds the size of my arm. If that's how you feel, too, here are some tips to cut down on weeding.

Mulch, mulch and more mulch: Wherever there is bare soil, weeds will grow. The single most effective step you can take towards reducing weeds is to keep your soil covered. My favorite thing to mulch my garden beds with is marsh hay, which I buy from a local nursery.

Straw, leaves or brown grass clipping will also work. But, be careful of your source. Ask questions before you buy mulch to make sure it doesn't contain any weed seeds or chemicals.

I also make sure my garden paths are covered at all times. I use woodchips because they last the longest. I refresh them once a year in spring.

Any of the above materials will work in paths as well. Do not use woodchips on vegetable beds. They have too much carbon and will tie up nitrogen in the soil and stunt plant growth. Woodchips are fine in perennial flower beds.

Smother instead of pulling: In some areas of my garden I've given up trying to pull the weeds. An especially tricky area is where the woodchip perimeter around my garden meets the grass. Grass is always on the move so it's constantly popping up in the woodchips. Each spring I lay a thick layer of cardboard along that perimeter and cover with about 12 inches of woodchips. Instead of spending hours pulling weeds that will just come back, I take the path of least resistance and smother them instead.

You can watch a quick video I created about weed-less gardening [here](#) I wrote a blog post about one of the ways I use cardboard in the garden [here](#).