

Minimizing Weeds without Herbicides

- Utilize mulch to help minimize weeds, while also maintaining the moisture of the soil. Schools can use their spring grass clippings or leaf litter for a free source, or buy straw or marsh hay to mulch and winterize their gardens.
- Pull weeds early. The goal is to get "the plant ahead of the weed" - large plants will help shade out little weeds!
- Plant a short cover crop, such as radishes, underneath widely spaced plants like squash. This will help out-compete weeds as the plants get larger. (And you can eat the radishes!)
- Plant cover crops such as oats/peas or buckwheat in early spring or fall to help minimize weed competition next season.
- Learn to identify edible weeds - this can be a fun addition to your nutrition education program! Start with dandelion greens, lambs quarters, and purslane.

