

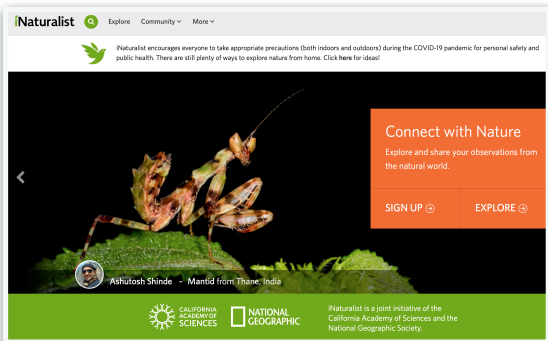


VICTORY GARDENS

Lesson and Activities Suggestions for 6th - 8th grades

Removing Weeds

Weeds are a nasty, continuous problem with any garden. Even expert gardeners battle weeds throughout the growing season. They can be extremely invasive and take over entire areas of your garden rather quickly. Some weeds can be deceiving and look quite pretty. These weeds can bloom with pretty flowers, so you allow them to grow. Don't let weeds trick you! They are after one thing only, and that is to steal the nutrients and water away from your plants in your garden.



It's important to be able to identify a weed from a seedling. Often times they look very similar. Eventually, the weed or plant will get large enough to distinguish if it is a plant you want or a weed. iNaturalist is a wonderful tool to help you identify almost any plant or weed. It is a website (www.inaturalist.org) or an app that can be downloaded on a phone or iPad. It allows the user to take a picture of what you are trying to identify and it will tell you what it is!

So, what are you suppose to do about the weeds in your garden? Weeds are extremely resilient and often times have a very deep root system. One way to keep weeds down is to only water your plants. It takes more time to do this, but it will help the the number of weeds and the rate that they grow. This means watering your plants with a watering can and to get as close to the root as possible. If you are watering with a sprinkler or hose, it's a challenge to water exactly what you want. These methods will end up providing water to those nasty weeds. Another way to keep weeds down is to pull the weed out. Try to pull the whole root system out or dig underneath the weed to remove it. The best time to do this is after a rain because the weed will come out much easier when the ground is soft. You can even put down hay to limit the weeds, and this can also help keep moisture in the ground.



Common Kansas Weeds

Take a good look at each of these common Kansas weeds. Do they look familiar? Unfortunately, I think they make up most of my yard right now. Use these images to help with the activity on the following page. More images and information can be found at the web address under each image.

Crab Grass



<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Crabgrass.JPG>

Clover



https://pics.tech4learning.com/details.php?img=clover_in_bloom.jpg

Spurge



<https://www.domyown.com/spurge-identification-guide-a-577.html>

Dandelion



<https://commonwealthherbs.com/dandelion-herb-of-the-week/>

Weed Patrol

Activity Directions: Go to your Victory Garden and collect data on the weeds currently growing. After all this rain, there is bound to be plenty. Collect the data in the boxes below. Use the sheet above called "Kansas Common Weeds" to help you identify the weeds. If there is something you're not sure of, use the iNaturalist app to help. Collecting the data will help you determine your next step with the weeds in your Victory Garden. Write out an action plan and then follow through! I encourage you to take pictures of the weeds you pulled and post the using #SproutStudies.

Name of Weed	How Many?

What is your plan to try to control the weeds in your Victory Garden?