

# Weeding

Get your planting areas ready for cultivation with a weeding session. Show your children why it is important to weed regularly, and point out the different types of weeds in your garden.

## What you need

- Gloves
- Hand forks
- Buckets
- Compost bin



## What to do

1. Point out any growing plants, so that children are aware of the plants you want to leave in place.
2. Explain that it is important to pull out weeds so that they do not compete with your plants for water, light and nutrients.
3. Show children how to use a hand fork to loosen weeds and pull them up. Shake the soil off the roots back into the beds.
4. If possible, show children the different roots of annual and perennial weeds. Annual weeds, such as groundsel, have very fine hairs, whereas perennial weeds like dandelions have long thick roots.
5. Sort the weeds into annuals and perennials. Annual weeds can go into the compost bin, whereas perennial weeds should be thrown away.

## Ways to extend this activity

Photograph the weeds in your garden. Use these photos to identify the weeds, and make an Identification Guide for your garden. Investigate how compost is made as microorganisms decompose organic matter.

## National Curriculum Links

Name and identify the structure of garden plants. Describe how plants need water, light and a suitable temperature. Identify and describe the different parts of plants. Explore the requirements of plants for growth.