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YARD 'N' GARDEN



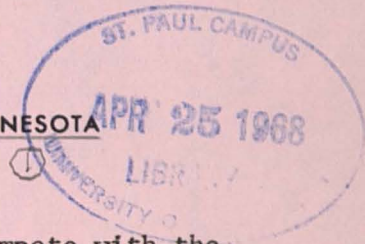
EXTENSION
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WEED CONTROL IN VEGETABLE GARDENS



Gardens are cultivated mainly to control weeds which compete with the vegetable plants for moisture and nutrients in the soil.

Cultivation is the safest and most common method of eliminating weeds. It should be started early in the season when weeds are small. Cultivate shallow enough to avoid root pruning.

Mulching can also be used for weed control. It causes death of the weed seedlings by preventing light from reaching them. You can make a good mulch with a two-to three-inch layer of ground corn cobs, grass clippings, clean straw, sawdust or pine needles. Black plastic can also be used.

Chemicals usually aren't practical for weed control in small gardens since different vegetables and weeds vary in their tolerance to herbicides. But a new material called dacthal has recently been made available to home gardeners for weed control. Dacthal kills only germinating weed seeds and won't kill plants above the ground. It's most effective if followed by rainfall or irrigation 2 to 3 days after treatment.

Dacthal is suggested for use in all beans except lima. It can also be used on cabbage and related crops, lettuce, onions, potatoes, cucumbers, melons, squash, pumpkins, tomatoes, egg plants and peppers. Follow label directions carefully.

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