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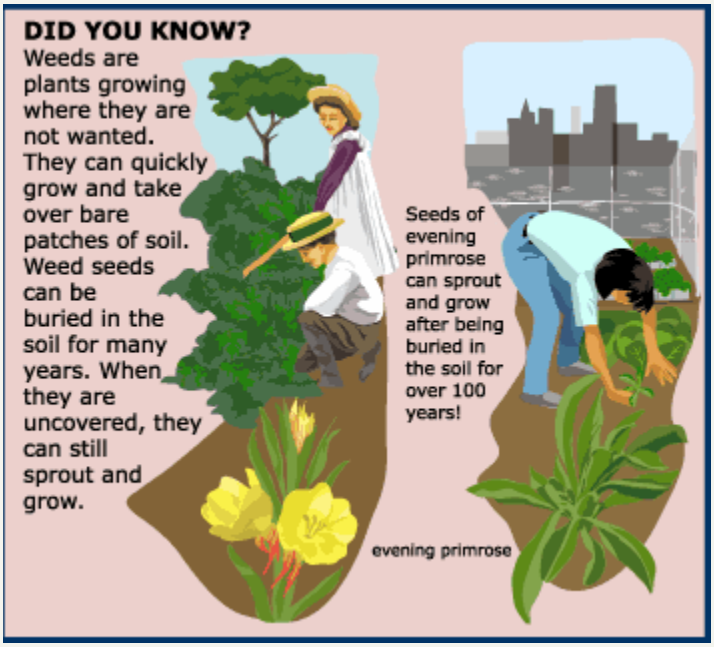
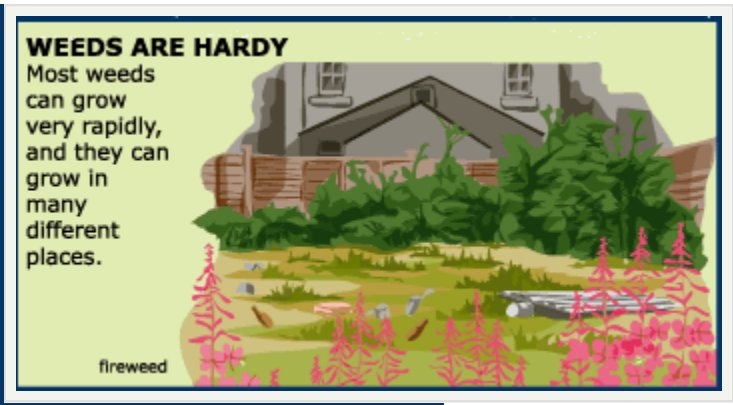
Weeds





WEED LIFE CYCLES

Annual weeds complete their life cycle in a single season.

Seeds of annuals sprout and grow into mature plants. After making seeds, the plants die.

common lambsquarters

Biennial weeds live for two growing seasons.

Queen Anne's lace

During the first growing season, they make food that is stored in their underground stems or roots. In the second season, they use the stored food to make flowers and seeds.

Perennial weeds live year to year.

Perennials die to the ground each growing season. But their underground roots or stems stay alive and send up new shoots at the start of the each growing season.

yellow nutsedge

WEED SEEDS

Most weeds make lots of seeds. Weeds also have unique ways to spread their seeds.

Dandelion seeds have parachutes that float in the wind.

Burdock seeds hitch a ride on fur and clothing.

WEEDS GROW FROM PLANT PARTS

Many weeds can also sprout from roots, stems, or leaves.

A small piece of stem or leaf of common purslane can grow into a new plant.

Field bindweed grows lots of roots. New plants sprout up from the roots.

WEEDS CAN BE FRIENDS...

While weeds can become pests in fields, lawns, and gardens, they can also be useful. They can be used as food or medicine for humans and animals. They can protect and improve the soil. They can also be beautiful to look at!

Many weeds, such as comfrey, have been used as food and medicine for hundreds of years.

bugleflower

gill-over-the-ground

Weeds quickly sprout and grow on bare soil, and keep it from washing or blowing away.

burdock

dandelion

Deep-rooted weeds can bring up nutrients from deep in the soil. When they die, weeds add organic matter to the soil.

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