



## Featured Article

### 2019 Spring: Homeowner Gardening Tips Tackling Weeds

The rains have provided much-needed moisture to the soil, and your garden is likely breathing a sigh of relief. The added moisture, fueled by the warm sun between breaks in the storms, presents an open invitation for weeds. Here are a few quick tips to help you manage them in the coming spring.

**1. Tackle them Early:** It is best to remove weeds now before they spread and take over your garden. The pesky types of weeds, and those that are difficult to deal with later in the year, are those that send out new shoots from their existing taproots. Dandelions, as well as other common weeds (pictured - right), have long taproots that will continue to grow if you do not remove the entire root. Pull them early while they are small and the soil is moist.



**2. Arm Yourself with the Right Tools:** This is the ideal time to pick weeds, not only before they shoot out new roots, but also when the ground is soft, moist, and the roots are more pliable. Using the right tools will make the job much easier. Typical tools used for this task include a gardening pick and spades that are designed for dandelion removal (pictured - right).



**3. Fill in the Voids:** Do not allow the areas where weeds have been removed to create a bare spot, which will invite another weed to fill out a rental application and move in! If the area where you pulled a weed is in a mulched planter bed, fill in the hole with soil and top it off with a 3" layer of mulch. If it is in a grassy area, fill the hole in with soil and top off the area with a topsoil and grass seed mix.

This will be a challenging spring and summer, as many of these weeds have been laying dormant due to the lack of rain. With a hefty amount of water and organic material available, many seedlings can lay dormant for several years. The common areas will be tackled with a variety of tools and treatment options as well. Patience and consistent, proactive management will be the key for success in 2019.