



Black Creek Garden Resource Network 2017

Summer and Fall
Garden Tips & Tricks

So spring is past, summer is here, and plants are in the ground...now what? Taking care of your plants:

Weeding

Watering

Soil Fertility

Harvesting

Replanting / Fall plantings

Weeding

- What is a 'weed'?
- Are there 'weeds' in nature? What weeds tell us.
- Some edible 'weeds':



Dandelion

Vitamin C, almost as much iron as spinach, and 4x Vitamin A



Purslane
OMEGA - 3



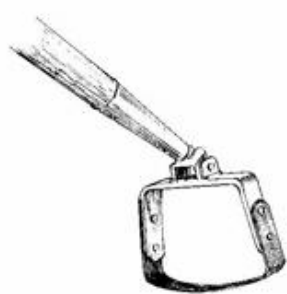
Lambs quarter



Pigweed
(wild callaloo)

Weeding

- Tools: trowels, hands, hoes (different kinds)
- Hoes reduce back bending
- Weed when weeds are small
- Don't let weeds develop and drop seeds in your garden
- Easiest time to pull weeds: after rain, when soil slight wet
- Sunny days: good for letting weeds dry and die on top of soil, won't re-root
- Since weeds are there for a reason, often contain nutrients and minerals needed by your soil, “chop and drop” - use as mulch



Stirrup hoe



Trapezoid hoe



Collinear hoe



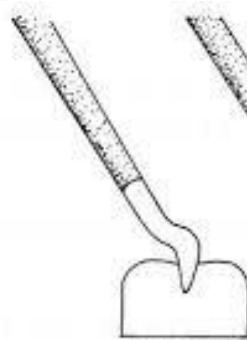
Toothed cultivator hoe



CobraHead hoe



Hooke 'n Crooke hoe



Chopping



Warren



Onion or tobacco



Scuffle

Hoe

Regular Garden Variety

The square or rectangular blade is at a right angle to the handle for chopping.



Warren

This tool is made more for planting than weeding. The V-shaped blade has a dual purpose. The pointed end is used to dig furrows, the open top part can be used to close the furrows.



Weeding

This tool has a flat blade on one end for chopping and pointed tips on the other for pulling weeds up by the roots.



Action

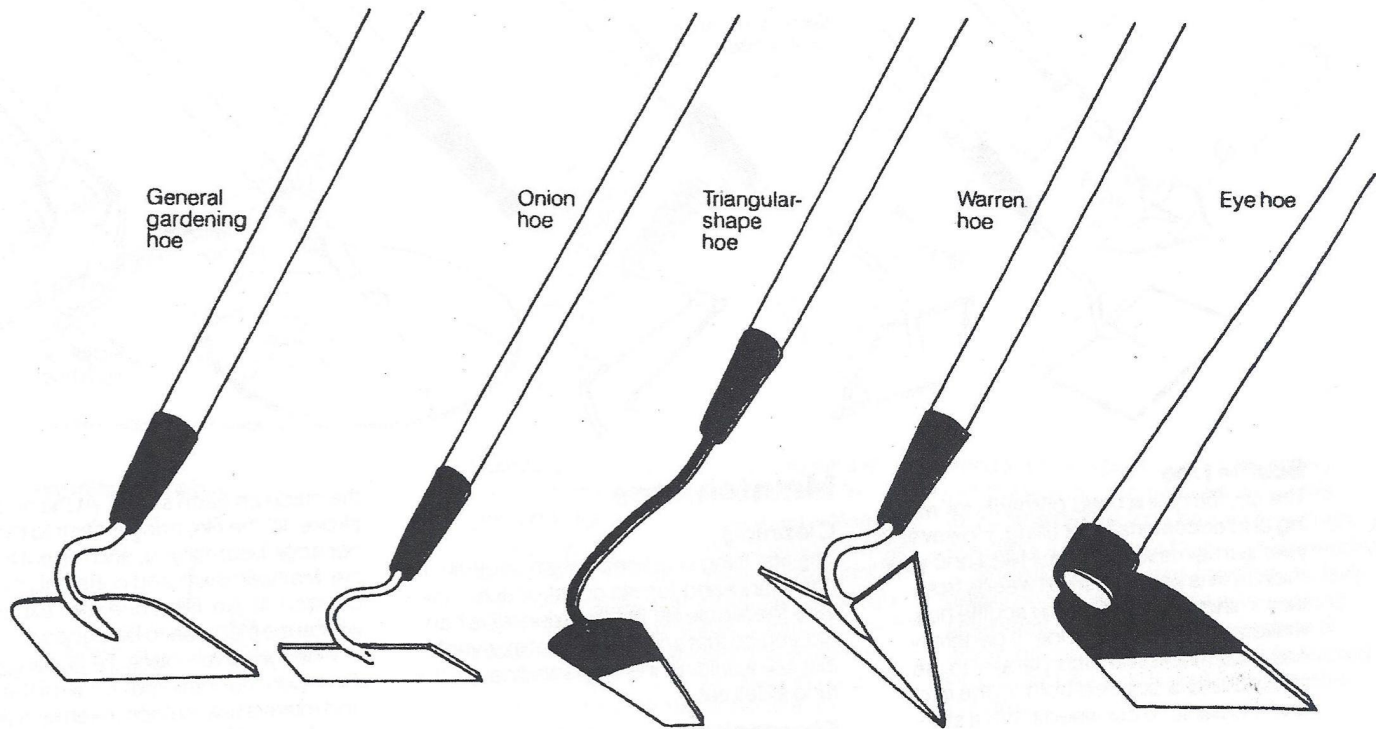
Pivots back and forth under the soil for weed cutting action. The blade cuts on the push or pull stroke.



Mortar

You may find this tool in the garden section. It is basically a garden hoe with holes in it to easily mix mortar or cement products.





General gardening hoe

Onion hoe

Triangular-shape hoe

Warren hoe

Eye hoe

Watering

- Water makes soil nutrients available to plants
- Best time to water: early morning
- 2nd best time to water: early evening - but not too late. Give plants time to dry off to prevent fungal diseases
- Don't water during hottest part of day - water drops act like a magnify glass, can burn leaves
- Replicate rain drop - don't spray plants hard
- Shallow frequent vs. occasional deep watering



Different watering needs

Shallow frequent watering
(eg: daily or every other day):

- Plants with shallow roots
- Many leafy greens: lettuce, spinach, mustards, kale, chard
- Small root crops: radish, turnip

Occasional deep watering (eg: every 3-4 days, or even once a week)

- Plants with deep roots or more drought tolerant plants
- Many “heat loving” crops: beans, tomatoes, eggplants, peppers
- Large thirsty plants: squashes, melons
- Larger root crops: onions, carrots

Less watering ---> encourages root growth

Soil Fertility

- Feeding your plants: “hungry plants” can use another compost application
- “Side dressing”
- “Hungry plants” - hot crops, larger plants, fruiting crops:
 - Tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, squash, cucumbers, melons, broccoli, cauliflower



Side-Dressing With Worm Castings



1. Pour worm castings



2. Add worm castings



3. Add worm castings



4. Add worm castings



Harvesting

- “Cut / pick and Come Again” vs “one time harvest”
- “Cut / pick and Come Again”:
 - many leafy greens: lettuce, spinach, callaloo, mustards, kale, chard
 - peas and beans
 - fruiting crops: tomatoes, eggplants, peppers, squashes, melons

Harvesting

- “one time harvest”:
 - Cabbages
 - Head lettuce
 - Garlic
 - Leeks
 - Some broccoli family plants: broccoli, cauliflower, brussel sprouts
 - Root crops: onion, radish, carrots...

Wait to wash, trim, and clean your vegetables until right before using them to further preserve vitamins and flavor. A bit more information: **Harvest** the outer leaves of lettuce when 4 to 6 inches long. Wait to **harvest** the outer leaves of **chard**, collards and **kale** when they are 8 to 10 inches



Fall Plantings

What you can still plant in July and early August (up to the 15th, days start to get shorter and crops take longer to grow):

- Peas (likes cool weather)
- Spinach
- Mustards: arugula, bok choy, mustard mixes, baby kale
- Lettuce for baby leaf harvest
- Radish
- Small salad Turnips