Control of weeds in garden areas

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THE present-day gardener does not appear to relish the tedious job of removing weeds by hand. It is a never-ending task and no sooner is one germination controlled than another appears.

Hand pulling, digging, raking and other methods of mechanical weed control aerate the upper layer of the soil and make conditions favourable for the germination of weed seeds which were previously dormant. If the soil is not disturbed many of these dormant seeds will not germinate.

Modern herbicides provide a ready answer for overcoming the weed problem in the home garden, but it is essential to select the correct chemical and to understand its limitations.

**SUITABLE HERBICIDES**

To simplify the wide choice of chemicals which can be used, five materials readily available in small packs are suggested for various purposes.

1. **Dacthal**

This chemical is quite unique in that it does not affect any plant, weed or otherwise, but only acts against germinating seeds. For this reason, it can be applied
with complete safety by spraying over the top of newly transplanted seedlings and any other garden plant or shrub. For the same reason, it will not kill an established weed even though it may only be in the seedling stage.

APPLICATION
To use Dacthal effectively, it must be applied to a weed-free surface free of lumps and trash, even if it is necessary to hand-weed the area. Dacthal is suspended in water by mixing it into a stiff paste and gradually adding water until the correct solution is obtained.

RATE
One ounce should be mixed with one-half gallon of water, and this is sufficient to treat 25 square yards. The spray should be applied to moist soil and the treated area should be lightly watered after the chemical has been applied.

PERIOD OF EFFECT
Dacthal will kill germinating weeds for a period of 10-12 weeks providing the soil is not disturbed. After this period a further treatment is required, or seed can be safely planted and a normal germination obtained.

WEEDS KILLED
Dacthal is effective against annual weeds including crabgrass, wintergrass and other annual grasses, pigweed or portulaca, capeweed, wild radish, nightshade, etc.
will not affect weeds growing from bulbs or established root stock or perennial weeds.

2. Tryquat

This is a mixture of two contact herbicides which will affect all plant foliage contacted, but which has no effect on the soil. Providing there is no drift at the time of application, it can be used with safety amongst garden plants. Where the weeds are too close to garden plants the material can be applied to the leaves with an old paint brush. An alternative method of application is to make a hole in the bottom of a five-pound fruit tin, insert the spray nozzle and use this as a guard against spray drift.

RATE

One fluid ounce of Tryquat should be dissolved in one gallon of water and the solution applied so that the leaf surface is completely covered. To help the chemical wet the leaf a small quantity of wetting agent should be added to the mixture.

PERIOD OF EFFECT

Tryquat only kills the weeds present at the time of application, so that a further application is necessary after each germination of weeds. Provided the soil is not disturbed the number of weed seeds which germinate will steadily decline.

3. Weedazol TL

The active ingredient of this herbicide is amitrole and this can be used to control some perennial weeds in the garden. Perennial grasses, sedges, such as nut grass, and other weeds difficult to kill can be painted or sprayed with a solution containing Weedazol TL. A second or third application may be necessary for a complete kill but the main advantage with this herbicide is that it has no residual effect on the soil. Foliage of garden shrubs which may be accidentally sprayed will turn yellow and then white but unless the whole plant is treated the shrub will frequently recover.

RATE

Five fluid ounces of Weedazol TL should be dissolved in one gallon of water.

4. 2,4,5-T

This herbicide is a hormone-like material and must be used with great care to prevent damage to garden plants. Its one safe use in gardens is to kill tree stumps and unwanted creepers. Although 2,4,5-T can be applied as a spray to the foliage of unwanted trees and creepers,
this method of application is not favoured because of the risk to other garden plants.

APPLICATION
The unwanted tree or creeper should be cut off close to ground level and a solution containing 2,4,5-T painted on to the top of the stump. A suitable mixture is made by dissolving one fluid ounce of 40 per cent. 2,4,5-T in one-half pint of kerosene. Any suckers present should be treated in the same manner.

5. 2,2-D.P.A.
This is a grass weed killer and can be used to control perennial grasses. At the rate suggested, garden plants could be affected if the solution came in contact with either the foliage or the roots. For this reason it can only be used away from garden plants or where it can be painted onto the foliage. It is ideal for treating grasses growing between paving slabs or open stonework.

RATE
Five ounces of 2,2-D.P.A. should be dissolved in one gallon of water and this is sufficient to treat 30 square yards.

HERBICIDES RECOMMENDED FOR THE CONTROL OF GARDEN WEEDS
The herbicides listed are available in small quantities suitable for home garden use from the distributors shown. The text should be read for method of application. Column 6 shows the amount of herbicide sufficient to treat 30 square yards.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weed Problem</th>
<th>Time to Spray</th>
<th>Herbicide</th>
<th>Trade Name</th>
<th>Distributor</th>
<th>Quantity in 1 gal. water</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual Weeds</td>
<td>Before weeds germinate</td>
<td>Dacthal</td>
<td>Dacthal W75</td>
<td>Dawson Harrison</td>
<td>2 oz.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>After weeds germinate</td>
<td>Tryquat</td>
<td></td>
<td>Dawson Harrison, Wesfarmers, Terra Trading</td>
<td>1 fluid oz.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bluquat</td>
<td></td>
<td>Blue Cross</td>
<td>8 fluid oz.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Polyquat</td>
<td></td>
<td>Selleys</td>
<td>10 fluid oz.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perennial Weeds</td>
<td>When young</td>
<td>Weedazol TL</td>
<td>Weedazol TL</td>
<td>Barrow Linton, Dawson Harrison, Wesfarmers</td>
<td>5 fluid oz.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creepers or Trees</td>
<td>Optional</td>
<td>2, 4, 5-T</td>
<td></td>
<td>Barrow Linton, Blue Cross, David Gray, Dawson Harrison, Lanes, Wesfarmers, Terra Trading</td>
<td>1 fluid oz. in \frac{1}{2} pint kerosene</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perennial Grasses (away from garden plants)</td>
<td>When making active growth</td>
<td>2,2-D.P.A.</td>
<td>Propon, Pon, Graypon, Dowpon</td>
<td>Barrow Linton, Blue Cross, David Grays, Dawson Harrison, Lanes, Wesfarmers, Terra Trading</td>
<td>5 oz.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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