



## Basic Vegetable Gardening

### Lesson 11: Weeding, Fertilizing, and Maintaining the Garden

**Lesson Summary:** Boys and girls will learn how to weed and maintain the garden.

**Boys and girls will:**

- know the correct way to maintain the garden.
- pull weeds from the garden.
- watch the compost pile or pit and mix it as needed.

**Time:** 30 minutes

**What you need:**

Watering cans  
Organic materials for composting  
Gardening tools for making compost  
Materials for pesticides if needed  
Organic or inorganic materials for mulching

**Lesson Steps**

**1. (2 minutes) – Introduction**

Talk about the compost heaps or pits you made. Do you need to start another one?

**2. (3 minutes) – Teach about the right way to weed a garden.**

**2.1 Ask: Why do we weed?**

Answers: Weeds and plants both need water and nutrients from the soil. If there are fewer weeds, then there is more water and nutrients for the plants.

**2.2 Check the garden for weeds.** If your garden has lots of weeds, check to see if there are weeds around the outside of your garden. Keep the outside free of weeds to stop pests and weeds from hurting the garden.

To control weeds:

- Pull by hand
- Dig up weeds with a hoe
- Use a lot of mulch to keep weeds from germinating.

**3. (5 minutes) – Check on the garden with the whole group.**

**3.1 Check the compost heaps or pits.**

Has the compost been turned this week? Is it ready to use? If you need to add more materials or start a new heap, decide where you will put it.

**3.2 Check the mulch.**

Do you need to add mulch to the garden? How can you tell? What will you use for mulch if you add more?

### 3.3 Check for diseases and harmful insects on the plants.

Has it rained since you put on insecticides or fungicides? Check the top and bottom of the leaves of the plants. If there are insect eggs on the leaves, talk about what you will do. Are they harmful? Do you need to make some natural pesticide and put it on the plants?

If there are just a few insects around, you can catch them and kill them with your hands. You may not need to use an insecticide.

#### 4. (15 – 20 minutes) Weed, mulch and fertilize the garden. Make compost.

Divide the boys and girls into teams. Give each group a task.

Weeding group – Weed and remove dead parts from plants.

Compost group – Turn the compost heap. Fertilize the plants with compost that is ready. It is better to add a little bit of compost more times than adding one big pile to each plant.

Mulching group – Gather mulch and put it around plants

Pesticide group – make and apply natural pesticides

Tell the groups how long they have to work in the garden. When one group gets done with their work they can help another group.

#### 5. (5 minutes) - Review

Ask these questions:

- What did we do today? What problems did we find? What was doing well in the garden?
- Why is it important to take care of the garden?
- Are there some things we should do different now or the next season to make the garden better?



#### 6. (1 minute) - Close

Tell the boys and girls when the next meeting is and what the lesson will be. Write down what the group did today. It is important to write down when you used pesticides and made compost.