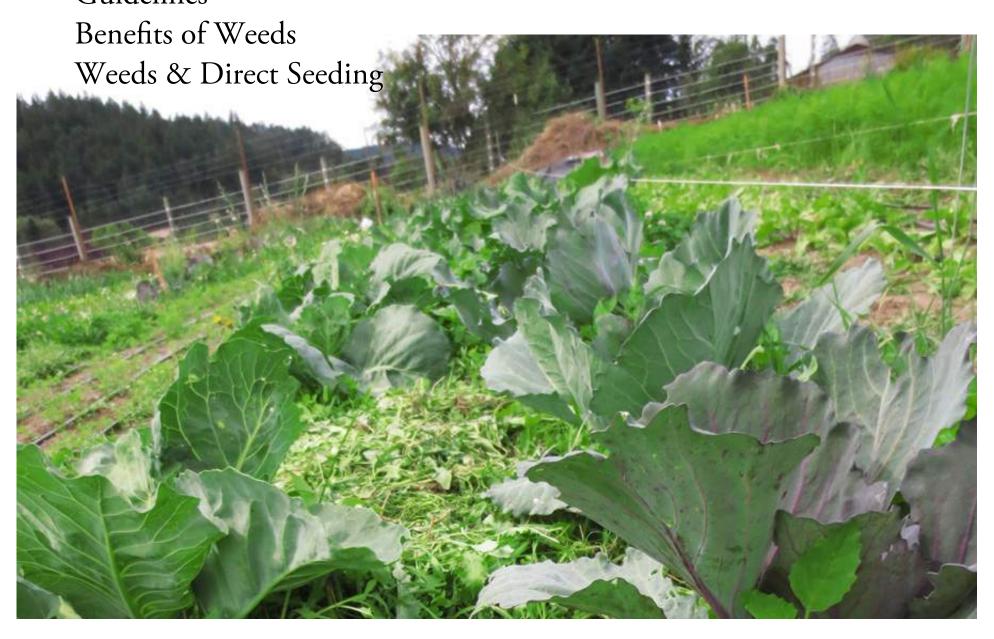
Managing Weeds

Guidelines



Guidelines

- Weeds are part of a healthy garden. Learn to manage them through proper crop rotation and cover cropping
- Tillage creates weed problems as well as most manures and on site compost
- It takes a few years to start reaping the benefit of no-till in regards to weed management
- Timing of weeding is critical "A stitch in time, saves nine"
- When possible weed before seedlings emerge, using care not to disturb seedlings
- Your ability to perform timely weed management should be an important factor in determining the size and type of your operation

- Critical times for weeding:
- 1) As weeds emerge and can be quickly eliminated
- 2) Before weeds have formed viable seeds (always be on the look out for this when doing other tasks)
- 3) Prior to seed scattering When pulling or cutting weeds with developed seeds place them in separate compost piles until seeds are no longer viable





Benefits of weeds

- Increasing soil fertility
- Improves soil structure
- Protects soil from the elements
- Feeds beneficial insects
- Provides insect and disease protection



• Certain types of weeds make good cover crops when properly managed (esp in the fall, if you have not planted a cover crop & in lieu of bare soil): chickweed, lambs quarters, purslane, dock, mullein, pineapple weed, chamomile, nasturtiums, red nettle, lupine, comfrey, calendula, wild clovers and vetches



Experiment: Beneficial weeds in no-till bed without Fava bean cover crop





Chickweed, Red Nettle, Dock





• Tillage effects weeds through:



- 4) cutting up rhizomes and distributing them throughout area of tillage
- 5) tillage favors aggressive deep root species that tend to multiply with soil disruption

- 1) soil compaction
- 2) disrupting water levels in soil
- 3) depositing weed seeds in soil



Weeds & small direct-seeded beds

Experiment: Did not sow seeds in a newly prepared seed bed. Allowed 2 weeks and watered bed to encourage weed germination



Shallow hoe soil with a hula hoe or similar tool prior to seeding







Experiment: early weeding between the rows with hand hoe

weeding around seedlings by hand when they emerge



• Gain control over weeds before establishing perennial crops or permanent cover crops in paths

Experiment:

clover established in path next to notill salad greens bed

